



MINUTES OF THE 30TH ORDINARY MEETING (BUDGET SPEECH) OF THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG MUNICIPALITY, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 28 MAY 2025, AT 10:00 FOLLOWED BY THE BUDGET SPEECH DEBATE AND CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS ON THURSDAY, 29 MAY 2025 AT 12:00 AT THE CONSTANCE CONNIE BAPELA COUNCIL CHAMBER, METROPOLITAN CENTRE, BRAAMFONTEIN.

**SPEAKER OF COUNCIL
COUNCILLOR N MTHEMBU**

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ITEM NUMBER

GROUP FINANCE

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MEMBERS PRESENT

The Speaker: Councillor M N Mthembu

The Executive Mayor: Councillor S E Morero

Abdool, F	Gwamanda, K
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	Hughes, Z
Bittkau, R	Jacobs, B
Bodenstein, H	Jacobs, K
Boer, C	Jainoodeen, Z
Bolani, M G	Johnson, N
Brand, D G	Jonker, N
Buthelezi, T C	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	Kwapeng, C
Coogan, L C	Lebatlang, T Z
Cook, M	Lebea, M G
Coutriers, M J	Lefutso, L
Coverdale, D L T	Leshilo, R S
Crichton, M	Liebenberg, E
Da Gama, V M	Lobi, M
Da rocha, C M D	Louw, M A
Dammie, B H	Maake, M J
De Lange, F C	Mabaso, M P
Deppe, A J	Mabelebele, S S
Dladla, D	Mabidilala, M P
Dlamini, B	Mabuke, T A
Durand, G V M	Mabunda, T E
Echeozonjoku, B C	Mabuza, S K L
Edward, N	Madiba, T J
Finn, C E	Magwaza, B L P
Foley, D T	Magwentshu, L C
Fourie-Shawe, C	Maila, S M
Francisco, D B	Makamo, S S
Galeshewe, T M	Makaula, S
Goosen, J W	Makhuba, H N

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

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

She welcomed the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Councillor S. Morero; the Whip of Council, Councillor N. Zungu; the Chair of Chairs, Councillor V. Marema; all political party leaders and whips; Members of the Mayoral Committee; Chairpersons of the Section 79 Committees; fellow councillors; the Acting City Manager, Mr T. Makola; the Secretary to Council, Mr A. Gobinca; officials of the City of Johannesburg; residents of the City; members of the media; and all ladies and gentlemen present, to the 30th Ordinary Council Meeting of the City of Johannesburg Municipality.

A special welcome was extended to the following guests:

- *Honourable Lebogang Maile – MEC for Finance and Economic Development*
- *Mr Pan Qingjiang – Chinese Ambassador*
- *Mr Herman Mashaba – President of ActionSA*
- *Mr Tony Ngodwana – Deputy President of the AIC*
- *Mr Jafta Mahlubanzima – Secretary-General of the AIC*
- *Mr Nkululeko Dunga – EFF Gauteng Provincial Chairperson*
- *Mr Moshe Koma – EFF Gauteng Provincial Secretary*
- *Mr Funzi Ngobeni – ActionSA Gauteng Provincial Chairperson*
- *Ms Evelyn Mondlana – ActionSA Provincial Secretary*
- *Mr Sasabona Manganyi – ANC Johannesburg Regional Secretary*
- *Ms Gift Kubheka – Mrs Soweto*
- *Dr Tshegofatso Mathe – Founder of Mrs Soweto*
- *Mr Collin Sithole – CEO of Miss Soweto*
- *Ms Mbali Khumalo – Miss Soweto*
- *All Junior Student Councillors represented in the Chamber*
- *All Community NGOs represented in the Chamber*
- *Ndabezitha Mabhekaphezulu Khumalo and the AmaNtungwa Royal Kingdom*

The Speaker raised a concern regarding the quorum and granted Councillors 10 minutes to sign the attendance register.

2 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

<i>Councillor Dewes, D S</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Harman, L J</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Kreuzsch, S</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Kunene, K</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Landis, R</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Makhafole, E</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Mkhonto, M S</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mofokeng, J</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Mohamed, N</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Mpheto, L M P</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mpolobosho, M M</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Urgent Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Radebe, N P</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Ramaru, G</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Roberts, F C</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Seerane, M K</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Suddaby, J</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>

The following Councillors were granted permission to arrive late

Councillor Chabalala, M D
Councillor Makhuba, H N
Councillor Masuku, H P
Councillor Mazibuko, A L
Councillor Nyaqela, M M
Councillor Sifumba, N
Councillor Smit, P A

3 BUDGET SPEECH (28 May 2025)

The MMC: Finance, as delegated by the Executive Mayor presented the 2025/26 Budget Speech.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS & CLOSURE BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker expressed gratitude to the MMC for Finance for presenting the City's budget. It was noted that this was the only item of business for the day.

The Speaker further indicated that, as is customary, Councillors would be granted an opportunity to debate the Budget Speech and the four budget-related items on the agenda through their respective political parties. The MMC for Finance, followed by the Executive Mayor, would also be afforded the opportunity to respond accordingly and provide their respective comments.

Councillors were reminded that the meeting for the Budget Debate would be convened on Thursday, 29 May 2025 at 12:00.

The Speaker concluded by thanking all Councillors and distinguished guests for their presence on this significant occasion, during which the City of Johannesburg's budget for the upcoming financial year was presented.

AT THIS STAGE, THE TIME BEING 11:54, COUNCIL ADJOURNED UNTIL THURSDAY, 29 MAY 2025, AT 12:00 FOR THE DEBATE ON THE BUDGET SPEECH.

On resumption (29 May 2025), the following Councillors were present:

The Speaker: Councillor M N Mthembu

The Executive Mayor: Councillor S E Morero

Abdool, F	Goosen, J W
Amad, T	Gwamanda, K
Aphane, J D	Harris, R
Arnolds, M S	Hlatshwayo, S
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
Bodenstein, H	Jacobs, B
Boer, C	Jacobs, K
Bolani, M G	Jainoodeen, Z
Brand, D G	Johnson, N
Buthlezi, T C	Jonker, N
Campbell-Cloete, B	Kaldine, J
Chabalala, M D	Karolia, Y
Chame, F	Kgeletsane, M O
Chauke, K L	Khanyile, N M
Cherry, J	Khomongoe, N
Chetsanga, H	Khumalo, X I
Christians, A	Koekemoer, M
Chuma, A T	Komane, S A
Coogan, L C	Kreusch, S
Cook, M	Kwapeng, C
Coutriers, M J	Lebatlang, T Z
Coverdale, D L T	Lebea, M G
Crichton, M	Lefutso, L
Da Gama, V M	Leshilo, R S
Da rocha, C M D	Liebenberg, E
Dammie, B H	Lobi, M
De Lange, F C	Louw, M A
Deppe, A J	Maake, M J
Dladla, D	Mabaso, M P
Dlamini, B	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

Maila, S M	Mokoari, Z
Makamo, S S	Mokoena, G
Makaula, S	Mokoena, M S
Makhuba, H N	Mokoka, M L
Maluleka, T	Mokome, J M
Manganyi, D B	Mokwena, T M
Mangena, T D	Molala, S M
Marais, A F	Molefe, E W
Marema, V A	Molefe, M
Marumo, T	Molefe, S B
Masera, H	Molise, L D
Mashala, K	Moloisane, D
Mashinini, S	Mosehla, K J
Masoga, L M	Moshapo, L C
Masuku, H P	Mothopi, O Z
Masuku, L	Mphaho, M A
Maswazi, R	Mphefo, L M P
Matabane, O	Mposula, T
Mathe, G	Mpotulo, G S
May, Z	Mulelu, M
Mavhona, L S	Munyayi, V E
Mazibuko, A L	Mutavhatsindi, N T
Mazibuko, N	Nair, R K
Mazibukwana, M	Ncube, W M
Mbambala, T J	Ndlela, M C
Mchunu, A	Ndou, N L
Meyers, T	Ndou, P
Mgaga, B	Ndou, P
Mgcina, S E	Ndzondo, C M
Mhlari, T M	Nefdt, P W
Mhlongo, T A	Nenemba, T
Mkasi, G	Nethamba, R
Mkhize, T	Ngema, S V
Mkhonza, N F	Ngoepe, C S
Mmbengwa, M N	Nguse, S
Mmota, L	Ngwenya, F N
Mngadi, W B	Ngwenya, J A
Mnisi, M	Ngwetsheni, M M
Mnisi, N D	Nhlapo, C P
Mnyameni, M	Niemand, G J
Moatshe, K	Nkokou, T P
Modladlaba, D S	Nkomo, B
Modukanene, L C	Nkomo, E T
Modupi, D N	Nkomo, P T
Moepi, N J D	Nkonyeni, S P
Moeti, O T	Nkosi, R A L
Mofokeng, J	Nkubungu, L
Mogapi, T A	Nkwanyana, P B
Mohlala, C	Nofemela, N
Mohlala, P K	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
Ponsonby, D A
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
Rohlssen, C K
Santana, C G
Schay, D
Seerane, M K
Sehoai, R J
Sekhu, M V
Sekwaila, B J
Shackleford, 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
Supe, N P
Tabane, M C
Tambani, P S
Tefu, P V
Telekoa, A T
Truluck, T F
Tshwaku, M
Tshedo, J G
Tshehlo, G J
Tsotetsi, L Y M
Twala, Y A
Van der Merwe, M
Van Wyk, W M
Wax, K P
Williams, M C
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 requested Council to stand and observe a moment of silence for prayer and meditation.

She proceeded to welcome the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Councillor S. Morero; the Whip of Council, Councillor N. Zungu; the Chair of Chairs, Councillor V. Marema; all political party leaders and whips; Members of the Mayoral Committee; Chairpersons of the Section 79 Committees; fellow Councillors; the Acting City Manager, Mr T. Makola; the Secretary to Council, Mr A. Gobinca; officials of the City of Johannesburg; residents of the City of Johannesburg; members of the media; and all ladies and gentlemen present, to the continuation of the 30th Ordinary Council Meeting of the City of Johannesburg Municipality.

The Speaker noted that 219 Councillors were present at the meeting. She requested that any Councillors who had not yet signed the attendance register do so. It was confirmed that the meeting had a quorum and would proceed.

2 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

<i>Councillor Dewes, D S</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Durand, G V M</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Harman, L J</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Kunene, K</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Landis, R</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Makhafola, E</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Marais, S I</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mkhonto, M S</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mohamed, N</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mokoena, P</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Political Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mpolobosho, M M</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Urgent Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Pitso, K</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Ramaru, G</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Roberts, F C</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Suddaby, J</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Wilskut, D</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Political Party Business</i>

Apologies for late arrival were received from the following Councillors:

*Councillor Chame, F
Councillor Cherry, J
Councillor Crichton, M
Councillor Masuku, L
Councillor May, Z
Councillor Nyaqela, M M
Councillor Ponsonby, D A
Councillor Raseruthe, S H
Councillor Seerane, M K*

3 DEBATE ON THE BUDGET SPEECH (29 MAY 2024)

Councillor Modukanene (ActionSA) addressed Council as follows:

“Thank you, Speaker. Madam Speaker, fellow councillors and the residents of our beloved City of Johannesburg, we are not gathered here today to discuss numbers in a spreadsheet. We are here to debate the soul of a city at the crossroads. The budget may be legally balanced, but morally it is bankrupt. We are told this is a people's budget but let us not be deceived. This is not a people's budget. It is a political survival plan dressed in the language of the poor while punishing them in practice. The 200 rand prepaid electricity surcharge is legalized extortion. Speaker, let us not mince our words. This freight raid is a legalized extortion. It is a tax on poverty. It punishes pensioners in Moffat View Old Age Home whose slobos show half their grant spent on electricity. It punishes unemployed graduates who are trying to keep their phones charged. It punishes the backyard dwellers who never asked for this but now pays for it. We were told the poor are exempted through the ESP Program. That is not factual. Residents are struggling to access the system.

The indigent register is broken. The most vulnerable are not exempt; they are exploited. We submitted a cost evidence-based alternative that will raise up to 4.4 billion without punishing the poor. A tiered surcharge based on income and usage, aggressive revenue recovery from illegal connections and chronic defaulters, a solar and wheeling monetization model and a rationalization of non-core spending. We gave you the tools to do better but you chose not to because the truth does not fit into your patronage spreadsheet. Insourcing, a betrayal with a smile. Let us talk about insourcing, not as a debate point, but as a moral test. Yes, the first phase of insourcing was implemented but that is where it stopped.

The challenges we saw were not with insourcing itself, but with how it was implemented. Poor planning, a lack of transitional support, and deliberate sabotage by those who profit from outsourcing disrupted what should have been a groundbreaking reform. Insourcing, when done right restores dignity, strengthens accountability and ensures long-term savings for the city. The problem is not the model, it is the world. We are now told that the National Treasury does not support insourcing but let us be honest; Treasury guidance is not the Constitution; social justice is. Security guards, cleaners, EPWP workers, the invisible backbone of our clinics, libraries and Council

buildings are still exploited under your watch. The truth is simple: you would not insource because contractors must eat, and they are not the ones at the gates; but they are the ones at the golf courses. Insourcing is not a pipe dream but a resolution of this very house. A capital budget built on debt and dissolution.

Speaker, we are being asked to approve a 3.5 billion borrowing spree this year alone, over 9.7 billion over the next three years and five billion in debt restructuring. But where are the results from the last billions borrowed? Now you speak of off-balance sheet financing, the same trickery that collapsed Enron. This is not a development strategy however it is debt dependency. We say no more borrowing without delivery and no more loans without transparency. Institutional failure and bureaucratic bloat. Let us speak frankly; the city does not lack money; it lacks priority. You employ over 33,000 people, yet basic services collapse. The wage bill has ballooned to over 21.6 billion, but you cannot fix billing, you cannot pick up the rubbish and when you call centres are still unanswered. There is no institutional review, no consequence management, and no accountability for over 5 billion in irregular expenditure. This is not governance. This is a job protection record. On spatial justice and the local economy, spazas for locals.

Speaker, while the Executive Mayor and MMC of the Economic Development crisscrossed the city preaching the gospel of economic opportunity. We remind them that true inclusion starts with enforcement, but they are doing the Lord's work. That I can give to them. Spaza for locals is not just a slogan. It is an economic justice intervention. The local economy is not free for all. The money was meant for women like Nombuso in Ward 56 and Keitumetse Senne in Ward 124. The mothers who wake up before dawn to sell warm magwinya on the corners of our communities, that must not be hijacked. Hijacked by syndicates, hijacked by corrupt officials, hijacked by politicians protecting lawlessness. We call for compliance not as red tape, but as a shield to protect dignity, jobs, and local ownership. Yes, we are not just rejectionists, we acknowledge.

The allocation into the city rejuvenation program, Action SA's motion, is now funding budget reality. We will ensure strict oversight. Funding for the Kya Sands landfill crisis, a result of Action SA's persistent advocacy. The procurement of red fleet fire engines long overdue but necessary. That progress we do acknowledge, and we are very appreciative of. But isolated winds do not redeem systematic regression. Our alternative is real and ready. Action SA did not come to oppose; we came to propose. A progressive poor revenue model, a clear plan for infrastructure and investment driven by need, not optics, and institutional clean-up with a performance-based accountability, public participation that is real, not performative. Speaker, I have also noticed the budget in your office. It was reduced from 2.4 to 1.3. This is very concerning because oversight and governance are the backbone of the legislature. Speaker, the concern is our Ward Councillors' offices. They do not have furniture, it is broken, and before long they would not even be able to print proof of addresses for residents. (Speaking in Setswana). Yes. So, Speaker, please, this is really concerning, and I hope that you can, you should lobby for more funds to assist our residents, to assist our Councillors, more especially our Ward Councillors.

Speaker, this is not a protest vote; it is a principled vote. We do not stand with populism, we do not stand with paralyzers, we stand with the pensioner in Moffat View Old Age Home praying for the lights to stay on. The mother in Diepsloot walking with her child passing burst pipes. The informal trader in Yeoville is now taxed before she earns. We vote for them, and we vote against this budget because Johannesburg is not just a city, it is a promise. A promise of dignity, of African excellence, of fairness. And today, that promise needs defenders, not just approvers. We reject this budget not in our name, not in yours and finally, together with my caucus, we declare that only action can fix Johannesburg. Thank you."

Councillor Makhuba (IFP) addressed Council as follows:

"The young recruit. Honourable Speaker of Council, Honourable Chief Whip of Council, the Executive Mayor, MMC for Finance, members of the Mayoral Committee, the IFP Caucus led by MMC Mabaso, Honourable Councillors, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, Sanibonani.

Madam Speaker, the Inkatha Freedom Party has noted that this year's budget of 89.4 billion is the greatest that the city has ever received. We welcome the fact that the city managed to raise its budget revenue despite the tough economic environment which it operated in. We can only hope that the additional financial resources will be used with a great sense of efficiency and diligence. I say this because it is also a fact that this city has often been found wanting when it comes to preventing its chronic issues of wastefully irregular and unapproved spending which negatively impacts on service delivery and the well-being of Johannesburg citizens. This year's budget is suitably themed as a Financially Sustainable Joburg. In addition to this, the MMC for Finance, Councillor Arnolds, said that the presented budget is not merely a budget, but a vision forged in the fire of public participation. It is grounded in the demands of our people and propelled by the spirit of renewal.

The IFP is not opposed to any of these pronouncements, but we only urge that they must be followed through with a renewed spirit that is just as resolute when it comes to implementation. The truth is that people of Joburg are now weary and have grown impatient of tales about the city's vision that never materialize into visible outcomes of service delivery. This much was evident as we listened through their concerns voiced out during the IDP hearings in recent weeks. Across the city, residents expressed their yearn for this municipality to meet their needs like water and sanitation, electricity, shelter, municipal roads infrastructure repairs, which have been delayed. Such delays in service delivery are no better than a denial of services. I am raising this, sorry speaker, this budget does not also show much appreciation on intergovernmental relations. There is no proper alignment with other spheres of government like the GNU, the GPU, particularly on their program called TISH, which speaks to your township, informal settlements and hostels. I am raising this at the backdrop of the fact that the budget allocated for the Department of Human Settlements on a face value is sufficient to make a difference. However, a lion's share of it is ring-fenced for 10 key projects which make it difficult to make a difference on long forgotten areas. BFI is a necessary funding method to support infrastructure development, linking with

new major projects, but it does create financial risk for other major projects. It is a method that should be replicated in all mega developments to secure and re-fence and re-influence funding. It would have been prudent if this budget had been explicit on how much has been allocated to hostels, retirement villages, and the revamping of flats for greater accountability.

We are, however, optimistic that the increased budget for capital projects that will address deep infrastructure backlogs, where job equity is allocated, 5.6 billion and 4.6 billion allocated to city power over the next three years. These allocations will certainly go a long way to address the urgent need to maintain the deteriorating water and electricity infrastructure and add on more of its particular underserved areas of the city. We also welcome the prioritization of the battle against potholes in the city, noting particularly the announcement to fund the resurfacing of municipal roads in the city which will help a great deal for commuters and businesses that heavily rely on the use of the road infrastructure and public transportation. The IFP also commends the efforts made by the city with regards to ring-fence the resources that cater for indigent and poor members of our great city.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, the IFP remains committed to serving the people of Johannesburg and we are always prepared to put the interests of the citizens first, above all else. Our vision is clear. We are determined to ensure that this city remains a prosperous metro with an accountable government of local unity that truly works for its people. The IFP supports this budget. I thank you."

Councillor Maila (DA) expressed concern regarding the absence of senior management in the chamber, particularly the Acting City Manager and the Group Chief Financial Officer. He stated that it was important for them to be present to take note of the comments and contributions made by Councillors.

The Speaker acknowledged the concern raised by Councillor Maila and stated that the Executive had heard his remarks loud and clear.

Councillor Cook (GOOD) addressed Council as follows:

"Speaker, yesterday the MMC of Finance delivered the 2025-2026 City of Joburg budget speech. As GOOD, we had hoped that the MMC would deliver a positive and optimistic budget which would assure the residents of Joburg that their voices were being considered and that the city was addressing the litany of pressing issues which face Joburg residents daily. Instead, we received what only could be considered as an angry campaign speech that delivered regurgitated buzzwords and highlighted that overburdened residents will have to cough up more while the city continues to deteriorate.

Speaker, the residents of Joburg know that budgets are about numbers, not about fancy words. However, instead of delivering a budget that was full of numbers and the details to back those numbers up. Residents had hundreds of lofty hyper-bills and promises strung together in an unappetizing word salad which passed blame on Joburg's chaos back to the residents like a hot potato. Speaker, when numbers were mentioned, they were rattled off in quick succession with no justification or plan on how these numbers will be achieved before heading back to more waffle.

Speaker, the MMC noted that the city's degradation is caused by illegal dumping, informal invasions, vandalism, cable theft and By-Law non-compliance and that this erodes dignity, drives away investment and costs the municipality millions of rand. If the MMC was honest she would have noted that while these issues do contribute to the problems the city is facing, the biggest problems the city are facing is political bickering, financial mismanagement, a complete breakdown in service delivery, and corruption which steals directly from the poor and brings Joburg to its knees. The city writes off hundreds of millions of rands every year due to irregular and wasteful expenditure and corruption. How is it that the MMC of Finance can spin it to blame residents for Joburg's degradation? GOOD would like to assure the residents of Joburg, all the residents of Joburg, you are not the problem; this Council is.

The MMC further mentioned that it is not enough to deliver services; we must protect them. Speaker, please could you let the MMC know that to protect services, you must be delivering them first. It is also noted that the MMC mentioned that dreamers flocked to Johannesburg. It is true, the city of gold has attracted dreamers. I am one of them. I moved to Johannesburg in 2012 to chase my dreams. But like residents of Joburg will now admit, our biggest dreams have become our worst nightmares. Joburg is crumbling and deteriorating at an accelerated rate, and opportunities are drying up for those who are not politically connected.

Speaker, we have heard of an institutional review for years, but nothing has been presented to this House. Instead, in yesterday's speech, we learned that employee-related costs are now at 25% of the city's budget, exceeding R21.6 billion rand. While residents suffer with a complete breakdown in service delivery across the city. The city continues to prioritize salaries for the connected few, rather than focusing on what matters to the six million residents of Johannesburg. Speaker, Joburg's 2025-2026 budget fails the most vulnerable and continues to cripple the already overburdened and financially struggling resident. It is a budget that clings to old habits while ignoring the public frustration and the need for a pro-poor reform. The city's 84.8 billion operating revenue and 80.7 billion expenditure projections are based on flawed assumptions, including unjustifiable tariffs and an underperformance in collections. Rather than cut waste and inefficiency, the administration chooses to shift the financial burden to the already struggling communities. Despite numerous commitments from the executive and public outcry, the R200 prepaid electricity surcharge remains in the budget. This charge punishes low-income residents who rely on prepaid meters to avoid debt. It is a regressive and, frankly, brutal measure.

Residents across Johannesburg make the decision every day whether they are going to buy bread or electricity units. We are aware of major infrastructure backlogs. Water and electricity infrastructure are crumbling. Potholes are getting bigger. Traffic lights are not working across the city. Joburg Water has a backlog of 27 billion in infrastructure. This budget does not address this and continues to underfund the most critical issues.

How can we justify cutting 2.5 million in road infrastructure when the number of potholes and traffic light issues are increasing? Speaker, GOOD, has raised concerns about the Mayor's Bomb Squad, which is now being referred to as the Inner-City War Room. Yesterday, we heard that this War Room is operational. In fact, we heard there are multiple War Rooms. Where are these War Rooms? What are they costing? Who is operating them? And why are we, as Councillors, still not able to see these plans?

Speaker, the Mayor showed us in his SOCA that he can send an email. Perhaps him or the MMC of Finance could send an email to all of us as Councillors, indicating what are these War Room plans and what it is costing.

In closing, Speaker, we have heard of many issues, but the real issues of the people of Johannesburg have not been addressed. What about the concerns of residents of Westbury, Coronationville, Riverleigh, Westine, Brixton, Melville, Ennerdale, Lawley? The list goes on."

Councillor Mokoena (APC) addressed Council as follows:

"Greetings to you, Speaker, the Executive Mayor, MMCs, Chief Whip in his absentia, Chair of Chairs, fellow councillors, our guests and residents. Speaker, as the APC, we want to take this opportunity to really appreciate and thank the Group Finance Team, the MMC of Finance under the leadership of the Executive Mayor, for crafting this budget under difficult conditions. It is extremely difficult because, for example, as Speaker, it is a situation where you need to spend 50 rands of revenue to cover 100 rands of expenditure. So, a strong balancing act was required, and they did that. So, we understand and also appreciate for that. So, just back to MMC for Finance. MMC, the budget process is one side of the coin. It is done now. You presented very well. We have seen the synopsis and extract of the budget and give us a net surplus of 4.1 billion. Now, the other side of the coin is the implementation of the budget that will then give us the actual financial performance and financial position.

The net surplus that we are showing now might change into a deficit or shortage position. So that must be avoided by a combination of the following. On the revenue side, we really need to think deeply and consider establishing a finance company like a city bank. And I raised this before, that a finance company will take advantage of the flow of money and generate interest revenue for the city. On the other hand, we need to strengthen the municipal trading entities and assets to diversify our revenue generation. On the expenditure side, we as APC, we propose that we need to implement the budget in compliance with and within the prescripts of the law and regulations, such as MSA and MFMA, etc.

There should be no deviation from the approved budget so that there are no costs escalation, and the infrastructure project cost does not exceed the allowed and allocated budget. The third point is that all the activities as per the approved performance plan must be achieved to avoid unnecessary delays in rollout of planned infrastructure projects. The best team must be used at all levels to deliver infrastructure projects that are planned currently. Point number four is that there should be adherence to sound financial management. There should be financial discipline, and we must make sure that that financial discipline is maintained at all

levels. The available money must be spent appropriately. Speaker, you see, in the past, myself and UmAfrika Nkonkou will have said each bullet must take us forward but now times have changed. We are saying that each rent must take us forward. So SAPC, we further recommend that we should move as close as possible to ward-based budgeting, so that most of the key priorities are budgeted for in all the wards. The ward-based budgeting that we are saying, we are referring to that it should be a combination of equitable allocation and also proportional allocation of budget to all the wards.

We also recommend strengthening of social audits, tracking and evaluating of performance in the rollout of infrastructure projects so that the projects are delivered as expected in terms of the quality of work and the time frame. Also they should meet the expectations of our people who should always be at the centre of everything that we do. So lastly, Speaker, in terms of the overall financial performance and position of the city. We must strive to retain the sub-last position so that we always maintain a positive liquidity position to avoid a situation where we fail to meet our short-term commitments and obligations. With those few inputs, thank you very much, Speaker."

Councillor Santana (DA) addressed Council as follows:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Johannesburg residents, esteemed colleagues, and the members of the media. As the Democratic Alliance, we understand unwaveringly for good governance, accountability, fiscal responsibility, infrastructure investment and economic justice. Today, I present the DA's assessment of the City of Johannesburg's 2025-2026 to 2027-2028 medium-term budget, grounded in our commitment to build a prosperous, inclusive and world class African city. Johannesburg, South Africa's economic heartbeat, is in crisis. Systemic inefficiencies, misplaced priorities and a lack of accountability have eroded its potential.

Our infrastructure lies in neglect, leaving the forgotten residents and ratepayers of Orange Farm, Soweto, Lenasia, Roodepoort, Randburg, Sandton, Alexandra, and Diepsloot to bear the burden of the city's failure in delivery. Madam Speaker, the operating budget proposed by the MMC for the 2025-2026 projects; a revenue of 84.8 billion, a 9.3% increase, and expenditure of 80.7 billion, a 7% increase for the 2024-2025 financial year. The tariff hikes included the property rates at 4.6, electricity at 12.41, water at 13.9, sanitation at 13.9, refuse at 6.6. Madam Speaker, the DA rejects this business-as-usual approach. We place undue strain on residents already grappling with economic hardships.

Our alternative budget prioritises fiscal responsibility, economic justice. And we are proposing the following. A revenue of 83.6 billion, which represents a 7.9% increase, and an expenditure of 79.9 billion, an increase of only 6%, aligning with inflation to ease the financial burden. The tariff adjustments that we are proposing are as follows: Property rates, 0% increase, reflecting stagnant or declining property values due to infrastructure decay. 12.41%, aligned with the pass-through costs. 13.9%, aligned with the pass-through costs. Sanitation, 4.6%, is linked to property rates for the residential users, as it is a flat based on property size. Refuse 4.6 balancing and affordability and service delivery. Madam Speaker, we also propose targeted adjustments to the

revenue and expenditure line items. Revenue enhancement increases the fines and penalties and forfeits by 150% through rigorous By-Law enforcement, boosting compliance and revenue without burning residents sweat the city's assets to unlock untapped revenue streams, reducing reliance on tariff hikes as well.

Expenditure savings cap employee-related costs at 4.6% in line with inflation and dissolve non-performing municipal-owned entities boards to curb wasteful expenditure. Reduce council remuneration increased to 3%, reflecting fiscal restraint. Maintain debt impairment at 0% increase by enhancing revenue collection strategies. Cap other losses at 0% by addressing technical and non-technical losses at City Power and Joburg Water. Madam Speaker, on that basis, we still ended up with a surplus of 3.7 billion rand before capital transfers and taxation. Additionally, we reject the network capacity charge for customers not directly supplied by City Power for reliant on its network. This charge, ranging from 70 rand to 280 rand and 30 cents, excluding VAT, requires clarity and public consultation to ensure fairness. The DA budget is a blueprint for economic recovery, prioritizing affordability, accountability and service delivery for all residents. Moving to the capital budget, the proposed capital budget of 8.7 billion is funded as follows: The City of Johannesburg loans at 42% representing 3.5 billion, the COJ cash at 7.5% of only 650 million of our own cash, national grants at 41.8% reflecting 3.6 billion, provincial grants at 0.1, which is the 10.7 million, and others at 10.4 of 903 million.

Madam Speaker, this heavy reliance on loans at 42% burdens future generations with debt. Historically, the city balanced funding with one-third loans, one-third cash, and one-third grants. The DA proposes a leaner 7.9 billion capital budget as follows. COJ loans at 31.4%, dropping it to 2.5 billion. COJ cash, increasing it by 11.4% to 900 million. And the provincial grants and national grants at 45.6 at 3.6 billion remains unchanged. The provincial grants at 10.7 million remain unchanged. And other of 11.4% at 903 million remain unchanged, and other at 11.4% at 903 million remains unchanged.

Madam Speaker, our budget prioritises infrastructure investment across all 135 wards of the City of Johannesburg, ensuring equitable development. By aggressively collecting the 12 billion in outstanding property rates owed by residents, businesses and government, we will increase the COJ's cash contributions towards infrastructure, reducing debt and fostering sustainable growth. Madam Speaker, moving to the public consultation outcomes. We, as the Democratic Alliance, we are extremely concerned that not all residents' comments as we recorded during the public consultation process.

We do, however, support the calls for the improvement of the municipal standard chart of accounts implementation recognised by our National Treasury, that it is only partially compliant and that undermines transparency and accountability. Madam Speaker, moving to the capital funding plan, we as the Democratic Alliance will not support any additional long-term or short-term loans until a detailed report is provided on existing loans including terms, interest rates, and related capital projects. We also request a workshop on the public participation program for councillors to ensure transparency and understanding of what the city intends to do.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, the DA's vision of Johannesburg is rooted in our core values, good governance, fiscal responsibility, infrastructure investment and economic justice. Alternative budget delivers affordability, accountability and equitable growth. We will not burden residents with excessive tariffs or future generations with unsustainable debt. Instead, we will sweat assets, enhance revenue collection and prioritise infrastructure to build or rebuild a Johannesburg as a world-class African city. Together, we can create Johannesburg that works for all, a city of opportunity, fairness and prosperity. I thank you."

Councillor Mokome (COPE) addressed Council as follows:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker, and good day. Executive Mayor, Councillor Dada Sello Morero, Chief Whip of Council, Councillor Sthembiso Zungu, members of the Mayoral Committee, Chair of Chairs, Councillor Adolphus Marema, Chairperson of Council Committees, Fellow Councillors, Leaders of all Political Parties, Acting City Manager, Mr Tshepo Makola, Secretary to Council, Andile Gobinqa, Group Chief Financial Officer, Mr Tebogo Moraka, in absentia was made to believe, Senior Managers and Officials of Council, residents of the City of Johannesburg, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen, good day.

Mmusu Kgotla, "Mollela phofu ya gaabo, ga a fswe lentswe.... (Loosely translated that, that is closer to your heart remains your passion and obsession). Madam Speaker, Congress of the People's Co-op supports the collective declaration of the people's budget for a city that works as a cue from the mayor's part of the critical pillars of mayoral priorities. The Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture and Heritage had a shortfall of 53.1 million from the previous financial year. This resulted in underperformance by the entity and repairs and maintenance services were not optimally carried out. Yes, Madam Speaker, the budget reflects a city that is getting organised, that is taking performance, and that is building trust.

Madam Speaker, on a daily basis, we carry those cries for help from our communities. A vandalised swimming pool in Ennerdale, extension 9. Repairs and maintenance at the multi-purpose centre in Orange Farm. The Arthur Ashe Tennis Court in Moroka-Jababu is being vandalised because there is no security on the complex. Once again, Moroka-Jababu Boxing Club wall has recently collapsed, and this needs urgent attention in terms of repairs and maintenance.

Thank you, Madam Speaker, that the Johannesburg City Library has been allocated 28 million for completion, completion which we anticipate being completed by the end of August 2025. Johannesburg Arts Gallery has been allocated 40 million finally and is scheduled for completion in November 2026. We also note, Madam Speaker, the construction of a swimming pool in Cosmo City, which adds to our service delivery mandate. Yes, indeed, we also appreciate the work that has been done at the Matholeville Multi-Purpose Centre. I thank you, Madam Speaker."

Councillor Boer (VF+) addressed Council as follows:

“Good morning, Madam Speaker. All political observed. Before, I start with the debate, I want to thank you for your acknowledgement of Ascension Day today, that you shifted the time of the meeting to accommodate us for that. The Freedom Front really appreciate this. I want to ask your staff to keep it in their planning for next year that we do not have a meeting on Ascension Day. We would really appreciate that.

But Madam Speaker, to come back to the debate, the MMC was so right to say that the budget of the City of Johannesburg is probably the most important budget in South Africa, next to the national budget. We are the biggest metro and the whole country is looking at you Johannesburg for hope and this budget, Madam Speaker, was a budget of missing opportunities. It was a budget as if we were doing business as usual; we are taking money from our residents. It is an easy place to grab money, and we did not think out of the box; there was no thinking about how we can address the financial strain of the city. We did not address non-revenue water. We did not address infrastructure decay. We did not address the non-payment of services by many of our residents. We did not address, thinking back, that three years ago we were collecting a billion rand a year on traffic fines.

This has reduced to 150,000 because AARTO is not working, the Post Office is not working, and we do nothing about it. Madam Speaker, this budget does not create hope for any of our residents. It does not create investor confidence. It does not create employment. In fact, it will make the unemployment rate in our city higher. There is no confidence from any investor to come and invest in the city. A city with infrastructure falling apart, a city where charges are so high it is not just workable for any business to come and invest in our city and create employment for our workers. What does this budget do? It does create further financial strain.

Our ratepayers are already burdened and now we are imposing an average increase on their monthly bill of 9%. Where must they get this money from? And that will increase unemployment as well because many of our residents will have to get rid of our domestic workers, our garden workers, because they just cannot afford them anymore so even more people are going to apply for ESP. Madam Speaker, where are we going to? The MMC said in her budget speech, the city is still bearing the scars of apartheid. And Madam Speaker, with all respect, I am not insensitive to the wrongdoings of apartheid. But we must tell ourselves, before 1994, Johannesburg had no informal settlements. We are blaming apartheid on spatial planning.

We are not insensitive to the wrongdoings of Apartheid. But you must also bear in mind that the city was planned as one municipality, Johannesburg municipality, we had a Sandton municipality, we had a Randburg municipality, we had a Roodepoort municipality, and we even had a Midrand municipality. Now we have combined this together into one metro and that is causing part of our spatial planning issues that we do have. But Madam Speaker, the city is bearing the scars of 30 years of ANC government and outdated ideologies of affirmative action. Cadre deployment, BEE being Black Elite Empowerment.

Those ideologies are not creating jobs for our people. They do not produce cost-effective services. But as our attorney friend in Fairland days, it made a few people stinking rich. Those are the scars that our city is bearing today. And the MMC was talking about high impact. High impact is the new word. Yes, this budget will have a high impact on already suffering residents. We have to deal with broken infrastructure, potholes, no water, no electricity, and now they are expected to cough up additional funds. This budget will have a high impact on our residents in Ivory Park, Diepsloot, Alexandra because there is no hope for them for their in desperate situation. Their situation is going to get worse.

Madam Speaker, this reminds me that the Bible said that it is better not to make a promise than to make a promise and not fulfil your promises. And our budget speech was full of promises that are not going to be fulfilled. The MMC referred to a political contract. The budget is a political contract between the GLU and the residents. What does the GLU offer? No hope. No improvement in our desperate situation. They promise further financial strain on residents. They promise and increased poverty. They promise increase in unemployment. They promise a decrease in service levels. They promise further infrastructure. And to the residents of our city, do you want to accept this contract? No. The Freedom Front rejects this as unacceptable."

Councillor Mkhonza (ACDP) addressed Council as follows:

"Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Shalom, shalom. Madam Speaker, 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 once again Madam Speaker. Greetings to all councillors, the ACDP constituents, the residents of our beloved City Johannesburg. I greet all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen. Amen.

Allow me to first also quote from my guiding manual, the Bible, in the book of Proverbs 14.23. It reads as follows. If you work hard, you will have plenty. If you do nothing but talk, you will not have enough. Madam Speaker, we hope that the MMC and her team are not just talking. Congratulations, MMC Arnolds, on your maiden budget speech. All the right words were said, the revolutionary phrases were dotted around, and the obligatory reference to Apartheid was not forgotten. Allow me to start by appreciating the intention, MMC, for transparency in financial and performance reporting in an effort to win public trust. We applaud the intention to introduce one, a monthly publication of revenue and expenditure performance, two, detailed quarterly SDB reports with variance explanation, three, strengthening of internal audit and capacity and reporting. Four, enhanced forensic investigation services, for dealing with fraud, corruption and maladministration. Lastly, we also appreciate the intention of empowering counsellors with data tools.

Now, let us focus on these ideal intentions per point.

The monthly publications. After how many months, MMC, of the actual revenue and expenditure, will these reports be published, and which platforms will be used? We are asking this because, as the Section 79 Committee of Finance, we are struggling to get Section 71 reports within 10 days, let alone monthly. Two, on a detailed budget

quarterly SDBIPs, where will these be published, and we will have a user-friendly platform to access these reports? On internal audits, kindly furnish us with the tangible plans on how will these be done and by when? On enhanced GFIS, will the GFIS first start by investigating the illegal and Nicodemus appointment of Ms. Helen Botes and others?

Number five, on credit control, you did not speak much about the uncontrollable growing debtor's book. Will you please briefly talk about this? Number six, infrastructure development is core. How do we plan to achieve this when we have a person who dismally failed at JPC in the name of Ms. Helen Joseph? Botes, hey, Botes, okay, reduced illegal connections. How do we plan to do this whilst planning to electrify informal settlements instead of formalising them? Are we promoting illegal immigrants or what?

On GBV and By-Law enforcement. Madam Speaker, the MMC did not speak much about the disturbing pandemic against women and children. The unsettling mushrooming of children who are supposed to be at school. Infants and women begging at intersections must be treated as GBV. It is unacceptable that women and children are dropped off at intersections in the morning and collected in the afternoon. We turn a blind eye. The MMC does not say how much is committed to the JMPDs. Now, the budget speech is about a high-level snapshot of the Metro's income and expenses.

I want to focus again on the one element, the retention of the R200 surcharge on prepaid electricity. Nothing is mentioned about the charges levied on postpaid customers. Currently, the average charges are as follows. On electricity, the service charge is R235.79, network charge of R763.77. On water, demand management levy R322.97. On refuse, removal bin of R139. The average home pays an average of R1,460 in surcharges. Add this to the cost of electricity, water, refuse and removal and VAT.

Then the average household has to pay nearly R6,000 per month. In the current economic climate, with unemployment rate at 32% and a growing class of the working poor, these charges are excessive and certainly not pro-poor. The proposed increases are unaffordable and totally unacceptable. The ACDP calls for a review of the funding model because the current model is strangling those who do pay while no workable solution is tabled to broaden the pool of payers and to spread the burden of financing the city on all our citizens. The ACDP does not support the so-called people's budget. I thank you."

Councillor Simelane (ANC) addressed Council as follows:

"Thank you, Speaker. I greet you, Speaker, Executive Mayor, Sello Dada Morero. Speaker, a budget of progress, not promises. Honourable Speaker, Executive Mayor, members of Council. I rise today not only as a Councillor but as the voice of the youthful township constituents. A community that knows the hardship of reality of broken systems and the cost of being overlooked.

Today, we are resolute to support the 2025-2026 budget because we see a budget that recognises our daily struggles and is intentional about confronting them. This budget does not exist in isolation. It reflects the heart of our city. The 2025-2026 IDP, what we see is a budget aligned with ambition. From the IDP's strategic focus, strategic focus on sustainable service delivery, inclusive economic growth and infrastructure-led development. This budget takes a significant step in operationalising that vision. 5.6 billion for water infrastructure and 4.6 billion for electricity signal, more than the numbers.

It is a direct intervention in our township where water tanks have become the norm and candlelight is not a romantic choice but a survival tactic. The focus on infrastructure development is a committed input. The IDP and the budget provides mechanism to accelerate backlog, eradicating and improving turnaround in high-risk areas like ours. Speaker, the IDP is clear. Service delivery must be reliable, predictable and measurable. The budget follows suit with expandable performance-based services contract which we welcome. But, I urge the Council to ensure local contractors and cooperatives are empowered especially internship in township-based maintenance.

The introduction of real-time tracking of service complaints is commendable but this tool must be not locked in behind bureaucracies; it must be ward accessible enabling Councillors to monitor turnaround times escalate and resolve issues and rebuild trust. Let us close the gap between allocation and application. Speaker, I commend the emphasis on grid resilience and pipeline upgrades, but there is a caution. Our township must not only benefit from this investment, but it must also be prioritised. We must provide clarity on where, when and how these billions will reach us.

Let us pilot community energy cooperatives under the energy mix program. Microgrid solutions powered by local youth could help decentralise our resilience. The budget reflects the IDP promises but delivery must reflect urgency. Youth unemployment stands at around 30%. This budget shows some intent to alleviate youth unemployment. The IDP and the budget both speak to a job-intensive growth and digital infrastructure investment. Let us make this real through the expansion of township business hubs where local youth can access funding, Wi-Fi and mentorship.

The 59 million public empowerment grant is welcome. However, we propose a policy amendment. Direct 30% of that funding to youth-led ward-based service teams. Claimed, registered and monitored via counsellor-led committees. Our plan is to ensure that grants are impactful. Speaker, both the IDP and the budget commit to a smart city. I support the continued rollout of free Wi-Fi, but let us demand that all township schools, clinics and libraries be prioritised in phase one of this digital rollout, by way of intergovernmental arrangement, where possible. As we speak, as we talk of hosting G20 and U20 summits but let us not forget that our own youth who are still disconnected.

Let us invest in their digital literacy now. A smart city must include its poorest. The IDP calls for active citizenry and good governance. These budgets begin to support it. The idea of real-time dashboard and community-level performance reporting must not remain a pilot. I call for world-based IDP feedback platforms, a monthly opportunity where residents call the city to deliver. It cannot be that we engage the community when there are issues. We must be proactive. If we are building a city of the future, let us also build a citizenship of responsibility.

In closing, we support this budget not out of blind loyalty but because it speaks the language of the IDP. It aligns planning with service delivery. It speaks to transformation, not just in theory but in spend and yet supports its silence. Our job is to ensure this budget reaches the informal settlement, the unemployment and the unemployed graduate, the small business, Soweto, Orange Farm, Alex, Stjwetla, so on and so forth. Speaker, and the child who still does homework under a candle. We support this budget because we believe in Johannesburg, but the ANC support it on one condition, that we deliver not just services but hope to our people. Speaker, as the ANC, we support this budget. Thank you."

Councillor Abdool (UIM) addressed Council as follows:

"Good afternoon, Madam Speaker, Executive Mayor, fellow councillors, our guests in the gallery and community online. Madam Speaker, I do appreciate the fact that the theme of the budget is called the People's Budget because that is what the UIM is all about. We also appreciate the fact that it focuses on people, business and municipality and is fully funded. We appreciate the three pillars, service delivery, financial sustainability and by-law enforcement.

Regarding the revenue outlook, I'm going to reiterate it again, kindly add the recycling industry in the light of the fact of unemployment and the fact that it is a 25 billion rand industry in South Africa and worldwide, we look at a 101 billion rand industry by the year 2032. Illegal dumping will be eradicated. And if regulated properly, the city will be kept clean by residents because they gain financially from it. In this building alone, we are using tons and tons of paper that is being discarded. We can really make use of this. Let us make rubbish work for the city.

Youth unemployment, youth development must be in all sectors. The bulk of the responsibility to address unemployment is actually that of national government, but right now I will not go into that. Thank you so much for the EPW initiatives. However, not all youth is interested in that. We have creatives, technical youth, sports lovers, whom we should develop in our theatres, stadiums, etc. Where are the youth development initiatives in the Joburg theatres? We have so many stories to tell, but most of the theatres are focused on putting up shows and creating revenue and also boasting of a clean audit. If we don't develop the creatives, who will tell our Pan-African stories, our indigenous stories, and our true South African stories. The budget for theatre should include audience development, technical skills, storytelling development, stage decor, etc. And the theatres must be brought to the people in the communities in all regions.

Also create opportunities for our youth in these War Rooms, Joburg market. Our youth are interested in stuff like coding, droning, IT, Culinary, etc. Also include them in the walk-in centres.

Again, the word apartheid comes up. Let us not continue the apartheid legacy of grooming our youth to be servants only, but to be skilled, professional, and business owners. The following entities, and it's actually sad that they are not really sitting in this building. They have received a fat budget. City Power, Johannesburg Water, JRA. We do not want any more stories of unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure. We are tired. We have had it with all of that. Consequence management must rain down on those departments like a tonne of bricks. And let us not have electrification of informal settlements infringe on the electricity and water supply of established townships like what happened in Kathrada, Newclare, Westbury and Waterfall. It creates unnecessary tension amongst residents. It might have been a typing omission, but nowhere do I see anything about fixing municipal flats in certain wards.

For each new formalised settlement where people are placed, there should also be space for graveyards, because it is a problem when we have three to four funerals simultaneously in one row, not to mention the roads leading to these informal settlements. We cannot have a situation again where R313 million is sent back to the National Treasury because it was not utilised properly. Let us not ask it a question of, oh, we are sending back money just to show that we are not guilty of wasteful expenditure. We are wasting money. Use it for our community, use it for Johannesburg.

In fact, the city must ensure that every current infrastructure first is in place before just embarking on formalising informal settlements. Correcting historical justice means delivering to all communities and all wards. Unlike a Councillor who told someone in Ennerdale that sorry you are not black enough. It is indeed the pro-poor people's budget however we must be careful that we do not do it at the cost of people who actually fund this budget. And that is the working class, middle-class, upper-class citizen who also needs to make ends meet. Too much pressure will cause an explosion, and at some point, it will explode. It is the responsibility of 270 councillors to be the gatekeepers and custodians of not only the city, but also the residents. And this budget., the dream only works when there is teamwork. I thank you."

Councillor Zigebe (UDM) addressed Council as follows:

"Finally, I have time. Madam Speaker, let me greet you first. But before I continue, Councillor Boer mentioned apartheid in the same breath as Alexandra. And Alexandra is a legacy of apartheid. Madam Speaker, Executive Mayor, Mayoral Committee, Chief Whip, Chair of Chairs, Section 79 Committees' chairpersons, Councillors, Secretary to Council, okay others are not here, I am not going to greet them.

Fellow Africans, residents of the city of Johannesburg, members of the media, distinguished guests, I greet you all. Madam Speaker, before we speak of budgets and plans, allow us to first pause to honour Africa Day. We gather just days after the 25th of May, a date that holds sacred meaning for this continent. It marks the birth of the Organisation of African Unity in 1963, forged by the courage of Pan-African visionaries such as Kwame Nkrumah, Haile Selassie, and Julius Nyerere, who declared that Africa would no longer be the footstool of empires, but the foundation of its own freedom. Yet for us as Africans, this is not merely a political history. It is a spiritual legacy. In African indigenous spirituality, we understand that land, leadership and destiny are not transactional, they are sacred. We speak of Ubuntu not as a metaphor, but as a cosmology that reminds us, Umntu ngumntu ngabantu, ukuze ndixhentse uyakundombelela. That principle must animate everything we do, especially in this chamber. Africa Day is therefore not just an annual ritual, it is a call to memory, to humility, to courage, and most importantly, restoration of the nine ethos Africans to their spiritual hierarchy. It reminds us that Johannesburg is not just a city of commerce and concrete. It is a Pan-African metropolis built by Mozambican miners, Sotho teachers, Venda healers, Zulu activists, Tsonga entrepreneurs, Xhosa poets, and limboni zakwantu.

As we reflect on the 2025-2026 budget, we must ask, does this budget honour their sacrifices? Does it respond to their cries? Does it restore what was forcefully taken from them? Certainly, below is the expanded in-depth analysis of the budget speech by the MMC. Madam Speaker, the budget tabled before us is a blueprint forged in adversity with a total value of 89.4 billion. This is not a bureaucratic exercise in line with item allocations. It is a statement of direction. The MMC of Finance has not only presented a budget, but it is also a declaration of confidence in the city's ability to drive transformation under economic constraint.

In an environment where national GDP growth is projected at just 1.7% and Treasury is holding back on major expenditure growth. This city has managed to secure a 4.1 billion operating surplus. This is remarkable, especially when balanced against the challenges of inflationary pressures. Fuel price volatility, and constrained municipal revenue. But beyond the numbers, is the alignment of this budget with developmental intent. It is rooted in the National Development Plan, which demands inclusive economic growth, the District Development Model, which insists on cross-sphere cooperation, and the Joburg 2040 Growth and Development Strategy, which locates us firmly in a long-term vision of resilience, equity, and smart urbanism. This is not just a numbers exercise. It is a public intent made visible. Let us be frank. Johannesburg is in pain, and our residents feel it in the most basic of ways.

When electricity cuts out during an exam season, when roads become rivers every first rain, when a job application requires Wi-Fi, you do not have, when refuse piles up for days and service complaints are met with silence. And yet in the same budget we find the beginning of solutions. For instance, the 6.4 billion is allocated to repairs and maintenance. Seven percent of the total property plant and equipment base that is above the national benchmark and signals a pivot that asserts sustainability.

The projected reduction of non-technical electricity losses from 28 % to 25.8% shows a serious attempt to recover hundreds of millions lost to illegal connections and aged transformers. The capital commitment of 26.2 billion over the medium term represents a scale of investment that shifts urban trajectories. So yes, the challenges remain, but the presence of pain does not negate the possibility of progress. Solutions with soul, a call to governance with Ubuntu. In this section, I will move from critic to construction.

We need revenue diplomacy. Instead of relying only on disconnections and legal summons, we propose a new approach, revenue diplomacy. Create community ombuds offices with trained mediators to resolve disputes, especially in Soweto, Alexandra, and parts of the Inner City where billing legacies remain traumatic.

Introduce graduated debt relief incentives for consistent low-income payers. Enhance the rollout of prepaid smart meters, not just for control, but with real-time consumption education tools embedded. Restoring financial sustainability must go hand in hand with restoring trust. With increased investment in infrastructure repairs, the city must now shift from reaction to prediction. Use AI and GIS tools to create an infrastructure stress index across regions, identifying water, road and electricity assets with highest risk. Establish a rapid response maintenance course in partnership with local artisans and SMEs trained and certified by the city. If we can anticipate failure, we can prevent disaster. That is the future of sustainable urban maintenance.

Madam Speaker, too often women, youth and people with disabilities are mentioned in symbolic terms. This budget must change that by demanding measurable outcomes.

5% of the capital budget must be re-fenced for projects targeting accessibility, inclusive entrepreneurship and women-owned SMMEs.

Mandate that every opportunity centre offers program in South African Sign Language, caters for disabled learners and has mentorship circles for young women entrepreneurs. Geo-mainstreaming should not be a footnote. It must be a qualifying condition for all capital projects.

A growing city must not only create jobs, but it must also institutionalise job creation. We propose a formal municipal jobs pact signed by all city entities, departments and private contractors, requiring that no project above five million is approved without a local labour plan. Incentives for cooperatives and informal economy actors to register and participate in subcontracting, enhanced linkage between EPWP and long-term employment pathways, especially in green energy, digital services and public health.

We must shift from creating jobs to embedding employment in every line of city expenditure. The 2025 budget rightly celebrates the role of the war room, but centralised intelligence must be democratised. Establishing regional people's oversight forums, as some regions have begun, chaired by ward councillors and composed of community organisations, youth reps and technocrats. These forums should monitor each capital project, receive monthly progress reports from contractors, engage in participatory budgeting ahead of the next cycle.

Additionally, the IDP dashboard currently being piloted should be expanded into a civic-facing app where residents can track project milestones, complete resolution rates, ward specific capital and operational allocations. This is how we move from consultation to governance, the highest form of democracy.

Madam Speaker, in a society where institutions are fragile, corruption is rampant, and delivery is uneven, the most valuable currency is trust. The budget makes strides towards rebuilding that trust through a 2.3 billion urban settlements development grant that is tied to clear delivery frameworks by publishing monthly revenue and expenditure reports, a victory for transparency. Through alignment with the 10-year financial development plan, ensuring debt, liquidity and investment patterns are not left to chance. But now we must go further. We must publicly name and sanction underperforming contractors and force budget-linked performance bonuses for senior managers based on SDBIP delivery. Publish quarterly public delivery scorecards so that trust is earned, not assumed. Trust in government must move from rhetoric to measurable reliability.

Madam Speaker and honourable members, Johannesburg is not just another city. It is the bellwether of our international future. If Johannesburg works, South Africa has a chance. If Johannesburg leads, Africa can rise. Let us then pass this budget with both sobriety and hope. Let us affirm its potential, even as we strengthen its accountability mechanisms. Let us move beyond promises to implementation and beyond policies into performance. Let this budget not just fix the past, but it must build the future because the Africa we deserve does not begin in Addis Ababa, in Abuja or Abidjan. It begins here on the streets of Joburg with the choices we make today. Thank you, ATM, for the extra minutes."

Councillor Mhlongo (AIC) addressed Council as follows:

"Honourable Speaker, Nobuhle Mthembu, Executive Mayor Cllr Dada Morero, Fellow Councillors, Members of the Mayoral Committee, Esteemed residents of Johannesburg.

I rise today with pride - not only as a councillor of this esteemed chamber, but as a proud member of the African Independent Congress (AIC). I rise in support of the 2025/26 Budget as tabled by our very own MMC for Finance, Councillor Margaret Arnolds - a leader who has demonstrated not only technical competence but political courage and clarity of vision.

Honourable Speaker, this is a budget that does not flinch in the face of complexity. It confronts our city's challenges directly - with honesty, data, discipline, and most importantly, hope. It is grounded in the practical realities our people face every day, while lifting their eyes to a more just, sustainable, and inclusive Johannesburg. We in the AIC welcome the R89.4 billion budget as a progressive, balanced, and forward-looking response to the intersecting crises of service delivery backlogs, infrastructure decay, economic stress, and community frustration. But more than that, we recognise this as a people-centred instrument of transformation.

We are particularly encouraged by the strategic capital investment programme, with R26.2 billion committed over three years - prioritising electricity, water, roads, housing, and smart infrastructure. These are not just budget line items - they are building blocks of dignity.

Speaker, we come from communities that have been neglected and forgotten in the past - townships like Orange Farm, Kaalfontein, and parts of Lenasia South. This budget directs billions towards those very regions. That is spatial justice in action. That is what we in the AIC have always fought for - development that reaches the margins, not just the centres of power.

We also support the decisive infrastructure interventions to stabilise City Power and Johannesburg Water. A city without stable electricity and clean water cannot function. The R4.6 billion for energy and R5.6 billion for water infrastructure is not a cost - it is an investment in economic growth, safety, and human development.

This budget also responds to the cries of our people for better accountability. Through smart meters, improved billing systems, the War Room, and new service charters, the city is sending a clear message: delivery will no longer be optional - it will be monitored, measured, and enforced.

Speaker, I must also commend the leadership shown in aligning this budget with national priorities and leveraging our participation in the Presidential Working Group. For too long, local government has worked in silos. This budget represents a turning point: cooperative governance in action - national, provincial, and local arms of government rowing in the same direction.

As the AIC, a party rooted in justice, equity, and accountable development, we also welcome the strong message sent by this budget on urban renewal, informal settlement upgrades, job creation, and youth empowerment. The expanded EPWP, investment in innovation hubs, and Opportunity Centres show that this administration is not leaving the youth behind.

Speaker, some will claim this budget is ambitious. We say - let it be ambitious. Johannesburg is not a small town. It is Africa's largest city south of the Sahara. It demands bold thinking, coordinated planning, and courageous leadership. This budget has all three.

Councillor Arnolds has not just presented figures - she has presented a clear, credible, and constructive roadmap for the City of Johannesburg. As the African Independent Congress, we stand fully behind her, and we call on all parties across this Council to support the budget - not for the sake of politics, but for the people who sent us here. Let this budget be the start of a new chapter. A chapter defined by integrity, inclusion, and implementation.

The AIC supports the 2025/26 Budget in full. We say: enough delays - let's deliver. I thank you."

Councillor Simonse (PA) addressed Council as follows:

“Thank you. Greetings, Madam Speaker, Executive Mayor, Chief Whip of Council, Chair of Chairs, fellow councillors, the Joburg10 under the capable leadership of MMC Kunene in his absentia.

Madam Speaker, allow me, before I proceed, let me just address Councillor Fatima through you. Councillor Fatima, there's two ward Councillors in Ennerdale, which is Ward 7 and Ward 121. Your statement cannot be as an Ennerdale Councillor said so. Thank you. Please refrain from doing such in the future. Allow me to begin by thanking the MMC Arnolds for delivering 2025-2026 financial budget speech. We appreciate the efforts and the work that has gone into preparing this budget.

But Madam Speaker, while the budget is describing a fully funded, I express my deep dissatisfaction and disappointment, quoting a fully funded pro-poor and pro-growth budget. If this budget is truly fully funded, then I must ask, why is it continuously failing our majority of the residents across the city? Why do we see the same communities benefiting repeatedly, while others remain left behind, forgotten and neglected?

R25 billion has been allocated to electricity and R20 billion to water. On the surface, this sounds very substantial. But when we examine the impact on the ground, it becomes clear only certain areas will benefit, while others continue to live in the dark and without clean, reliable water. A budget can be fully funded on paper, but meaningless if the funds are only for a few. This is not something new. This is a pattern of selective service delivery that has plunged us for years.

Every budget promises changes, but for the communities on the outskirts, that change never arrives. The promise is made and broken year after year. Madam Speaker, this budget feels more like a public relation tool than a roadmap for equitable development. It is a pacifier designed to calm the frustrated or rather not to fix the root problem. Let us speak plainly. Communities such as Ennerdale, Meriting, Finetown, Davidsonville, Cosmo City, Ivory Park, Alexandra, Westbury, Rabie Ridge, are being ignored. Once again, these communities are forgotten and excluded from both plans and progress. Take into consideration Meriting, for example, remains in desperate need of electrification. Yes, it is not even acknowledged or on the Council's plans. How can we claim progress when the entire communities are not even on maps?

So, I ask again, are we going to decide, are we going to be making decisions based on what is best for the City of Johannesburg, or are we going to prioritise visibility, popularity, and political optics? That being said, I must commend MMC Kunene for his hand-on leadership. With limited resources, he has managed to achieve visible impact. He did not sit behind his desk. He went out from Region A to Region G, ensuring that JRA is doing their work. We have seen the difference. Fewer flooded roads as the rainy season approached, and immediate intervention in areas like Rabie Ridge and Diepsloot, places that have been neglected for far too long. This is the kind of leadership we should expect from everyone seated in this Chamber. Result-driven, not rhetoric-driven. But one man cannot fix this city on its own. The entire Council must act with the same urgency and accountability.

We must ensure all entities are equipped and empowered to serve every corner of Johannesburg, not just selected wards or favoured constituents. We can no longer hide behind the excuse that the city does not have money. Not when we are told that it is a fully funded budget. This is not resourced. It is how we choose to allocate and prioritise them. To this end, we propose the future allocations, including communities auditing, to ensure no region is left behind of the service delivery matrix. We need data-backed, fairness-focused planning that truly serves all. As the Patriotic Alliance, we acknowledge this budget. But let us make it clear, we do not offer blind support. We will be watching closely, demanding transparency, and holding each and every

MMC and department accountable. Promises made must be promises delivered. As the PA caucus, we are not here to just clap hands for speeches, we are here to deliver results. And we will not rest until every Johannesburg resident is seen and heard. Let the people of Johannesburg get what they deserve. Let us not fail them once again. Salute."

Councillor Gwamanda (Aljama-ah) addressed Council as follows:

"Thank you very much, should I say, outgoing Speaker of Council and the Executive Mayor in the City of Johannesburg and his members of the Mayoral Committee, Chairpersons of Section 79 Oversight Committees, the Chair of Chairs, the Chief Whip of Council, the Head of Administration in his acting role, and administrators, the residents in the City of Johannesburg, and all Councillors.

Good afternoon. Madam Speaker, or Chair, let me begin by welcoming the presentation by MMC Councillor Margaret Arnolds, with an appreciation to the manner in which it was delivered as a maiden finance speech. But Madam Speaker, in fact, I wanted to take this opportunity, Executive Mayor. This is because I am not going to be debating the budget directly, but to request that an 8.9 billion budget requires for us to conclude on the process of the appointment of a City Manager to ensure accountability and to ensure efficiency. Which brings me to this point. As a Councillor, I respect my political opponents and suffice to say, in as much as it leaves a bitter taste in my mouth, Executive Mayor, but I admire the approach that the Democratic Alliance take towards their constituents. They are deliberate, they are direct, they are unapologetic. And I would like to propose that we consider if we are to deal with the issue of the spatial injustices of the past and for us to ensure that words like historical injustice are not used against us any time in the future.

The second and fundamental to this item becomes our voter representation and how we represent them in Council as part of the government of the day. Do we as the majority find expression in the political statement embedded at the heart of the budget or proportionally with the affluent in a balance that speaks to service delivery areas of common interest. This is a people's budget as tabled by our MMC of Finance. And the last time I checked; I was a person myself. Yet MMC, I'm grappling with how to relate to the characterisation of our budget. This Madam Chair, I am saying at the backdrop of the questions that our constituency that I am directly accountable to are asking.

Madam Speaker, what is the status quo of the City of Johannesburg and does our budget respond to it? We welcome the focus on the vision of the city, the measures encapsulated in our spending to ensure financial prudence, the reduction of technical and non-technical losses in both our revenue drivers which is electricity and water and that we are prioritising our constitutional obligation of local government. Madam Chair, I am deeply concerned in particular about our youth, our mothers, our sisters and children who are all victims of the circumstances that this cruel world has chosen for them. We are deemed a murder capital in the world. Gangsterism is rife, with our streets depicting a scene from a Zombi apocalypse. And this is due to substance and drug abuse in our townships. The future of young people looks bleak, yet the Department of Health and Public Safety are allocated a combined budget that is less than that of ICT in the city.

A large percentage of households in previously disadvantaged communities that still resemble the remnants of apartheid in a form of concentration camps are affected by drug addiction in one form or the other. The City of Johannesburg, Madam Chair, with its R89.4 million budget, and 17 % to the GDP of the country, is in itself an enabler. But we need to ask ourselves the question of what is the city or government enabling? Is it enabling an environment for our residents and business to thrive or is it an enabler of violent crimes, theft, lawlessness and that continue in our townships and suburban areas unabated?

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, let me take the opportunity to indicate that as we do support this budget, and we will continuously endeavour to make meaningful contribution because the City of Johannesburg is our home. The City of Johannesburg is a beacon of hope for many out there. As Aljama-ah we support this particular budget, thank you."

MMC Nkokou (PAC) addressed Council as follows:

"Madam Speaker. I am going to go straight to my speech, trying to save time.

Executive Mayor, Honourable Councillors, fellow Africans. Let me begin by commending the Executive Mayor and MMC for Finance. Not only for tabling a bold and fully funded budget, but more importantly for affirming with clarity that Johannesburg is not merely a South African city but a Pan-African metropolis. This recognition is not a ceremonial, it is a conscious political act. It acknowledges that Johannesburg's destiny is intertwined with that of the continent.

As PAC, we welcome this framing. It echoes the vision of Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe, who reminded us that the African continent it is one indivisible whole. Johannesburg must now lead as an economic engine for a liberated and united Africa. In this light, the 2025-2026 People's Budget is not just a financial document, it is a continental commitment aligned with the agenda of 2063 and the rebirth of a city long demanded by its people.

The budget is rightly presented as a People's Budget. One born out of deep public engagement, with over 20,000 voices shaping the Integrated Development Plan. It is a rallying cry for renewal and delivery. It dares to position Johannesburg not just as a city of survival, but as a city of solutions.

We welcome its 8.7 billion capital program and especially its 3 billion allocations to historically underserved region like Orange Farm, Diepsloot, and the Inner City. It is a redistributive and spatially just approach that we have long called for. We celebrate 40 million allocated for long overdue completion of Johannesburg Art Gallery. It is very important. It is very important. I want those ones to listen to this. Those ones. you know those ones? They think they know everything. And the 28 million that will see the Johannesburg City Library reopened by August 2025. These are not mere buildings; they are centuries of memories and imagination for African working class.

We also note the proper thrust of this budget from the expanded social package to the rate rebate for pensioners, for free basic services extended to vulnerable households. These are victories for politics of justice, not charity, and must be defended. However, as a movement of the people, the PAC, we must raise constructive and principled critics. Region F, while justifiably receiving attention cannot monopolise cultural investment. Regions like Region G home to vibrant but neglected communities in Lenasia South and Orange Farm, need a cultural infrastructure just as urgently. Let the decentralisation of development be real not rhetorical. The community development facilities, including the multi-purpose centres and informal sports grounds remain in a state of despair across several wards. We urge that the same energy and capital commitment shown for the flagship project be extended to these everyday public spaces. The success of this budget depends not on allocation alone but on implementation. Too often, underspending and procurement delay mute the transformative power of otherwise sound plans. We call for enhanced contractor oversight, quarterly implementation audits, and community-based monitoring mechanism.

Finally, we support the alignment with the Presidential Working Group on the development model. We caution against the technocratic centralism. Communities must not only be consulted, but they must also be co-creators in this transformation.

Madam Speaker, the budget arrived days after Africa Day and ahead of Johannesburg hosting of key G20 and U20 events, let us ensure that we do not only simply showcase the aesthetics of progress to the world, while township streets remain dark, libraries closed, and young people jobless. The Joburg we want must rise not only in Sandton, but in Soweto, Orange Farm, and Eldorado Park too.

To support this budget is to believe in Jonesburg's potential. Amen. From Cape to Cairo, Morocco to Madagascar. No settler shall come into our land."

MMC Nkokou (PAC) indicated that he had forgotten to mention that MMC Mgcina had ceded her two minutes to allow him to complete his statement.

The Speaker confirmed with MMC Mgcina, who agreed that she had allocated her two minutes to MMC Nkokou.

MMC Nkokou (PAC) continued to address Council as follows:

“Thank you very much Madam Speaker for correcting that. Madam Speaker, this budget arrives just days after Africa Day and ahead of Johannesburg hosting of G20 and U20 events. Let us ensure that we do not simply showcase the aesthetic progress to the world, while townships remain stuck, libraries closed, and young people jobless. The Joburg we want must rise not only in Sandton alone, but in Soweto, Orange Farm, and Eldorado Park. To support this budget is to believe in Johannesburg's potential as a front line of African dignity. But to critique it is to remain loyal to the people who trusted us to do better.

Let us remember Joburg we want is not separate from the Africa we want. It is a foundation, it is the test, it's our collective opportunity. On behalf of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, I support this budget with vigilance, with solidarity, with revolutionary hope. I thank you. Izwe Lethu. From Cape to Cairo, Morocco to Madagascar, no settler shall claim even a square inch of our land. Africa for Africans. Izwe Lethu! Thank you very much.”

Councillor Nkosi (EFF) addressed Council as follows:

“Greetings, Speaker. And, Speaker, we saw you at the SOCA with your red dress, and yesterday you looked ravishing in that black and red dress. We see you, Speaker. I am not recruiting you, Speaker, I am just complementing you. But if you want, you can come.

Thank you. Greetings to the resilient and committed, hardworking 29 battalions of Economic Freedom Fighters led by our caucus leader, Dr. Mgcini Tshwaku and Thabisa Mogapi. Greetings to the City of Joburg staff, most notably the cleaners, security, as well as general workers. Greetings to the media and the public at large.

Speaker, our courteous disposition should not be taken as a form of being hypnotised to such a level that we forget that we are the Economic Freedom Fighters, committed in our belief of being the vanguard of the communities that we serve and that has brought us here in Council to represent them. In essence, Speaker, we will never sell out on the poor, marginalised, and downtrodden members of our society. There will be no coercive force manipulation, no scheduling that will convince us otherwise in our cause to fight for the indigent residents of Johannesburg.

Speaker, in 1989, Brazil introduced what is known at the time as participatory budgeting, ensuring that even the poorest citizens, social representatives and any community structures are involved in control of any capital budget interventions. This, in our view, meaningful participation. And so, it was very worrying that the MMC of Finance, against our beloved city, the finance bemoaned that our participatory budgeting, namely the IDP, was not well attended. This is an indictment against our beloved city, and as the Economic Freedom Fighters would like to have a meaningful participation where all community structures are overtly invited to such forums. The numbers of each IDP session are reported here in Council in various Section 79 Committees and we must say this is not good.

Speaker, the EFF has a concern about the COJ's approach on the intergovernmental relations. The district developmental model was meant for all three spheres of government not to sit in silos in terms of planning, budgeting and monitoring. As Councillors of Johannesburg, and one needs to consider that we are now a multi-party form of government, inclusivity is of utmost importance. Similar to the points raised on participatory governance, which must embody feedback, transparency, as well as meaningful participation, COJ will come up with an effective and efficient government.

So, all IGR forums should take heed of the autonomy of this Council as envisaged in Section 151 of the Constitution. We therefore seek well-coordinated feedback from the administration, the Mayoral Committee, as well as the Legislature on any IGR forum so that Council can also assert itself on any COJ matters.

Speaker, we are now introduced to the Presidential Working group. But hang on, as Councillors we are not yet aligned to the IGR and ECDM model. We must never have this view of having too many policies and frameworks and being empty on service delivery because that is what matters here. Speaker, responding to the G20 Summit and U20 Summit, the urgency that we are giving to our visitors must be the same urgency that we give to the residents of this city. We must not be like people who, when visitors come, they now clean up their dirty house. When important visitors come, they want to hide the cockroaches, the rats, etc. The summits must find us ready and the same urgency we give to the visitors is the same urgency that we must give to the residents of Johannesburg.

Speaker, South Africa has endeared themselves to the UN 17 Sustainable Goals, which gave us this neoliberal NDP. And through that gave us GDS 2040 that the City of Johannesburg keeps on repeating on reports. And we have not been given any feedback on the progress of its goal. In essence, Speaker, we have no monitoring and evaluation of the GDS 2040. We also feel that it is long overdue. The City of Johannesburg needs a new policy to replace the GDS 2040. It is clear that the policy objective will never be achieved in its deadline of 2030. The party speech mentions the agenda 2063, and yet it fails to provide an alignment with PIDA, Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa.

Speaker, because we are avid readers and listeners of the news, we listen carefully to the President of South Africa when he addressed the Sustainable Infrastructure Symposium, and he mentions the regional cooperation and integration as envisaged in the PIDA. But Speaker, is the COJ at the level to competently interpret, align, involve and provide the necessary feedback so we can be a well-class city.

Speaker, now that we have addressed the policy issues, let us now look at the budget. On the capital budget, Speaker, if you look at the capital project from a year-to-year comparison, you will know that there is an anomaly. The anomaly is that you have three elements there of loans, cash reserves, CRR, as well as the capital grants and contributions. If you pro rata, you will see that the cash has been drastically reduced and is not a good showing and that this may also affect our credit rating seeing that we are constantly borrowing.

On the Public Safety and Health and Social Development. Speaker, Public Safety and Health and Social Development portfolios remain very important within the COJ. We therefore raise concerns on the budget it has been allocated. The Public Safety department is not only labour driven, but also intelligence driven as well as technologically driven. The IOC is sitting at R165 million in terms of cost and yet we are given, we are allocated R17 million. The department's challenges and needs are constantly communicated from wardens, patrollers, need for cameras, two-way radios, etc. Yes, it is funded, but it is not enough. We ask that we increase our appetite for safety that is being called by the residents of Johannesburg and those that visit the country as we remain the host to such forums as the G20. So, we can never ignore the plights of the citizens when it comes to their safety. We remain hopeful that the safety that was raised in SOCA is given the agency it requires.

We ask that the health and social development portfolio, which is the custodian of the ESPP also should be looked at in terms of budgetary requirements. Speaker, we get it that the MMC of Finance is saying that the budget is fully funded. However, we have a reservation that the budget is pro-poor. Before the MMC of Finance gets agitated, let us put it into perspective. In the annexures of the Division of Revenue Bill, you will know that the City of Johannesburg has not been allocated many of the pro-poor grants that are easy money that the COJ can receive from Treasury. And it will definitely benefit the poor. Please go through the DOR, the Division of the Revenue Bill Annexures, and try and plot a recovery plan for the grants that have been taken away. You can use the IGR forums and the relevant procedure towards Treasury to recover and most importantly, use the grant. We propose having a task team that will only concentrate on the management and use of the grant as it was not being used.

Speaker, on the incorrect billing, the budget speech did not address the incorrect billing, which is a very serious issue. Recently the City of Johannesburg lost a case in Midrand Waterfall on a billing issue. This not only affects us on a legal basis, but it also affects our revenue collection and renders the collectible versus the uncollectible statistics incorrect. It is not accurate. We therefore have an inaccurate budget. As to how much this affects the numbers will be for the finance team to find the root cause of the incorrect billing. It will be prudent, Speaker, that we look at each and every revenue item and see where the uncollectible are emanating from, whether electricity, water, etc. The EFF has raised a motion that all SASSA card carrying members should automatically qualify for an ESP and we implore the City of Johannesburg to make a concerted effort and aggressively to drive this pro-poor issue. We welcome the tariffs and also, we have raised what you call it, a motion on land audit, we ask that we look at that land audit. And we remain hopeful that the Public Safety portfolio as well as the Health and Social Development portfolio budget concerns are addressed and taken seriously. We note the item. Thank you."

MMC Mgcina (ANC) addressed Council as follows:

"We are in a city of short people. The mayor is short, about three MMCs are short, so all short, but we are perfectly made by the Lord. That is how God wanted us to be. So, he loves us like this. Greetings, Madam Speaker, Councillor Mthembu, Honourable Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Councillor, Enoch Sello Morero, Honourable Chief Whip of Council, Councillor Sthembiso Zungu, Honourable Chair of

Chairs Adolfas Marema, Honourable fellow MMCs in the Government of Local Unity, Honourable fellow councillors who are in this chamber, leaders of all political parties in Council, the acting City Manager, oh, he was here but he left, the esteemed guests, members of the media, residents of our great and vibrant City of Johannesburg, ladies and gentlemen, Sanibonani, Molweni, Dumelang, good afternoon.

Good afternoon. I was taking my chances, MMC. It is really an honour and a privilege that I stand before you today, tasked with the responsibility to deliver a message that without any fear of favour or fear of contradiction and without any shadow of doubt, as the ANC caucus in this august chamber. We welcome the 2025-2026 budget speech as presented by the MMC of Finance, Councillor Margaret Arnolds yesterday. We recognise that this budget marks a critical step in shaping the financial direction of our beloved city, not only for the year ahead, but also for the betterment of the lives of our residents.

Firstly, I extend my sincere appreciation to the MMC for Finance and her team, as well as the Executive Mayor, for their diligence in crafting a budget that seeks to address both our immediate needs and our long-term objectives. The MMC and her team have heeded the call made by the Executive Mayor, Councillor Sello Morero, during his State of the City address on the 7th of May, in which he recommitted that this administration will do everything in its power to respond to the city's restoration and revitalisation. In his marching orders to all of us, Speaker, he is the Executive Mayor committed to the upgrading of bulk infrastructure, improving access to water and energy security, as well as economic growth and job creation, tackling issues such as crime prevention, traffic management, and ensuring basic services like waste collection and road maintenance are actually improved.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, this budget is more than just numbers on a page. It is the foundation upon which we continue to build stronger communities, improve essential services and drive economic growth. Johannesburg is a city of ambition, resilience and opportunity. With the financial framework presented by the MMC yesterday, we are reaffirming our commitment to the responsible governance, sustainable development, and inclusive service delivery to all our residents. Among other things, Madam Speaker, this budget aims to respond to bulk infrastructure restrictions, to stem water losses, and stabilise our water resources over the next three years. It aims to establish or to stabilise electricity generation and expand electricity availability to areas in which large-scale development is envisaged.

Madam Speaker, again through this budget we will improve transport mobility for scores of residents through the acquisition of more buses and we will improve our rapid response to disaster and emergency incidents through the acquisition of more fire engines. We are also poised to improve our safety and security through installation of more CCTV cameras across the city. And we will also equip our JMPD officers with state-of-the-art equipment and more personnel in their fight against crime. We will also ensure, Madam Speaker, that all Capex projects currently under construction are completed, and we will also be looking at increasing our revenue base supported by infrastructure expansion.

This budget, Madam Speaker, also serves as a guiding tool to ensure that every cent allocated is spent with transparency, of course, efficiency, and a focus on delivering tangible benefits to all residents of our city, as directed by the various IDP sessions that we conducted throughout the city. And attendance to those IDPs was quite impressive, I must say, Madam Speaker. As we move forward, we must continue to work together as government, as business, and communities, as well as all our stakeholders, to bring this budget to life in the way that will truly serve our people.

The success of the financial plan outlined by the MMC yesterday depends not just on the policies outlined but on our collective effort to implement them with dedication and accountability. Let us, through you Madam Speaker, let us embrace the opportunities this budget presents, tackle the challenges with determination and continuous striving for a Johannesburg that is safe, prosperous and thriving for all.

With that said, Madam Speaker, once again, I wish to reaffirm that as the ANC caucus, we officially accept and welcome the 2025-2026 budget speech as presented by MMC Finance and furthermore reaffirm our commitment to executing our vision as the government of local unity with integrity and purpose. For the betterment of all our residents of this, our great World-Class City, and for the attainment of the Joburg we all want to see with the future. And with that MMC, I want to appeal with the fabulous 44 to support this particular budget because it is going to address all the issues that they have raised in their inputs. So fabulous 44, please, let us support this budget. It is indeed a progressive budget for the residents of the city. Thank you."

3.1 RESPONSES BY MMC FINANCE

The MMC of Finance, Cllr Arnolds responded to the comment raised as follows:

"Thank you MMC Mgcina for reaffirming the ANC caucus support to this budget. Thank you very much.

Madam Speaker, let me start off with the R200 surcharge, which was labelled a legalised extortion. Tax on poverty, the surcharge is not unique to Johannesburg. It is not unique to Johannesburg and has been implemented by other metros in line with NERSA requirement of cost of supply study to inform tariff structure. The amount levied by Joburg has not changed from prior and remains lower than other metros. When I came into council, there was a mayor that ensured that we do not do what we are doing now. And he withdrew the surcharge, and it slipped over until 2020 when COVID caught us, and we could not implement it, and we are implementing it now. It is also meant to bring equity as those conventional meters are contributing. Councillor Mkhonza, more to the network maintenance than the prepaid meters customers.

The indigent register not working, as mentioned yesterday, I don't think it is so far away. Yesterday, it is not even 48 hours. We are reviewing, emphasis on the word reviewing, the indigent policy to be more inclusive and expand eligible customers. GICT is also working on upgrading the system for registering of ESP. The R2.5 billion borrowing, it has been clearly articulated in the speech that the borrowings are based

on engagement already quite advanced with development finance institutions. Committed to funding our water, electricity, infrastructure which will drive security of supply and reduce losses. Reference of off-balance sheet funding acknowledges that we cannot do it alone, but we have to partner with the private sector.

We have an interest in the city to drive economic growth. Salaries, the percentage is well good. The percentage is well within the National Treasury benchmark of between 25% and 40%. Good. The inner-city war rooms are not the bomb squad. JRA has been allocated R915 million for CAPEX, which is higher than the R807 million for 2024-2025, but precisely to ensure increased allocation to resurfacing and to address potholes.

Thank you very much to the IFP for your positive input. In the current year, 2024-2025 allocation is R654 million. 2025-2026 allocation, R963 million. 2026-7 allocation, R1.2 billion. And the allocation for the next outer year is R270 million. To the APC, thank you so much, Councillor. And if everybody understands from where you are speaking, I think you should give them your business card when you walk out here. We appreciate your constructive input and will commit to ensuring tight oversight on the implementation of the budget program and consequence management for all the underperformed areas.

I'm not going to respond to the DA, Madam Speaker, because the DA unveiled their own speech. The DA gave us a DA budget speech. So, I cannot comment on a DA budget speech. Until I have the budget speech in my hands, I'll be able to comment. The response to Freedom Front Plus. Boer, there has been informal settlements before 1994. In Orlando, there was also a shanty town. It's not true that the first camp, this is not true, because in Soweto, the first camp was in 1986. And it was called Mshengu Ville. Ivory Park was in 1990. So, it's not true if we say there were no informal settlements before. So, I must not use this thing. It is not correct to say the budget, Freedom Front Plus, does not focus on aging infrastructure and reducing non-revenue water. The budget is aligned to the trading services reform, and we will be voting for something later today on the trading services. To ensure that we see turnaround in the trading services, a primary response of the reforms is to ensure the turnaround of city power, Joburg Water, and from next year it will also be PICKITUP. As part of the reforms, we tabled before this Council today for approval. Today we have included in the Council documents for approval also the performance of the PIAP that shows the plans to turn around in the next six years.

So, whoever comes into government will not be able to take it away from the table and say it is a vanity project. And I am not certain if all of you went through your documents. To the ANC, our central service delivery app being delivered for GICT will enhance transparency and oversight and reporting and allow all of us to be able to track service delivery implementation. The rest, okay. UIM, flats and old age homes, there has been an amount allocated to them. It's 18.9 for the next three years. To the UDM, your comments were basically in support and emphasising the need that we ensure the alignment of our processes to ensure achievement of the plans to the EFF.

Public safety, there is funding, but we also realise that it is not enough. We urge the department to bear with us just a little longer within the constraints of our resources. Our plan that as we improve the performance of our revenue generating, which will avail more money in future towards public safety and many other pressure points. The pro-poor mention was made of the additional pro-poor grants outlined in the DORA. We can confirm that the budget has included all grants that a metro like Joburg is eligible to receive. The grant spending is monitored twice a month by the GCFO as the chair of the portfolio review committee to ensure that we have no grants taken back or unspent at the end of each year.

All SASSA eligible for ESP should be applying for the ESP. I think Madam Speaker I've spoken to everybody. Councillor Gwamanda, we are noting all your issues, and we will also work on it. Councillor Nkokou, definitely I think you had a big jump on your budget, and we hope to see that the work is being done in that areas. Councillor Simonse, I just said to the mayor as well as to MMC next to me, MMC Mgcina, that yes, I do note that we have left out areas like Ennerdale and I know you are the Ward Councillor there and you know that we have heard you so we will look into it. To those who have not attended the IDP, it is very difficult to speak to you to tell you what happened at the IDPs. But I also want to say, Executive Mayor and Madam Chair, there are a lot of Councillors that are not in support of this budget today, but they are being assisted by the MMC's office with all the complaints that they bring to us, and we ensure that their customers, their clients and the residents of the City of Johannesburg is looked after. I thank you."

3.2 COMMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

The Executive Mayor commented to the budget debate as follows:

Thank you, Speaker of Council, Councillor Nobuhle Mthembu. Thank you, Chief Whip of Council, Councillor Zungu, Chair of Chair, Councillor Marema, members of the Mayoral Committee, leaders of different caucuses, leaders of political parties, our guests in the gallery and residents of Johannesburg. Good afternoon to all of you. Mme Getrude Shope once said, I quote, "Every generation has got a responsibility to know what its mission is. Mine was to liberate the country, and what is yours". Close quote. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Fellow Councillors, do we understand our mission? According to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, we have a responsibility to provide democratic and accountable government for local communities, ensure the provision of services in a sustainable manner, promote social and economic development, and encourage community involvement. This is our business and nothing else. Both the State of the City Address and the Budget Speech delivered by Councillor Margaret Arnolds did exactly that. It is important to understand what it means to build a Johannesburg that represents its residents. The planning and budget process for the year under review 2025 to 2026 makes it clear what residents want to see. They want to see restoring of law and order through bylaw enforcement and crime prevention. Traffic lights functioning, traffic fines given to offenders, opportunities created for young people, streetlights kept on.

We started with implementing the accelerated service delivery. Residents asked for more to be done. Then we re-imagined the city so that we can understand what more needs to be done. This process resulted in the launch in the High Impact Service Delivery Programme, which is giving results in these areas:

- 1. Region F, which is the Inner-City area. Wards 59, 60, 64, 66, 6, 123 and 124 are cleaned daily, supported by a building inspection programme.*
- 2. Region B, cleaning results can be seen in ward 69, 86, 87, 98, 99 and 102.*
- 3. Region D, significant work is currently taking place in Kliptown and its surrounding areas.*

We are cleaning the city street by street. Fellow councillors, the 89.4 billion is the largest budget ever seen in the City of Johannesburg thus far. This is a serious budget, and MMC Arnolds proposed the 80.7 billion is allocated for operational expenditure and 8.7 billion for capital expenditure. What we do with this money is a serious balancing act. To illustrate my point, let us bring this reality closer to home. Councillor Marema, the day before yesterday, it was payday. What did you do with your money?

Madam Speaker, just for a second, please allow me to demonstrate what I did with my money thank you."

The Executive Mayor distributed R10.00 notes to the Councillors and requested Councillor Marema to assist him with the distribution. He thanked the Speaker and stated that, at that point, he had distributed R10.00 to each Councillor. He added that this was done in the midst of his financial obligations.

Councillor Amad (Aljama-ah) sought clarity on whether those conducting oversight over the Executive, such as members of Section 79 Committees, were permitted to accept the money.

The Executive Mayor continued with his comments on the budget debate as follows:

"Thank you, Madam Speaker and fellow Councillors. In the midst of my financial obligations, I am sure my family may have an issue with me for what I have just done. I withdrew money to give to our Councillors. Please look at the R10.00 note that is in your hand or your table. With R10.00, you must eat, drink, travel, pay someone for parking, and invest for your future. Which one do you start with? Eating and drinking keeps you alive. Coming to work provides job security, paying for parking is paying for a service you received and investing helps to create a sustainable life. What will you do first?

Putting together a funded budget is about making hard choices. As we listened to the debate, some of you across the floor are arguing that we should not be building a new infrastructure, because we will not be able to maintain it. Some of you are arguing against our proposed tariff structure, and others want to see more development in their wards.

Councillor Boer, when you say those people, who are we referring to? You are indeed a beneficiary of the apartheid transformation programme. How can you refer to black people as "those people"? This is wrong. Our wounds from the past still exist. Please do not open them. Your ancestors used race to control access to South Africa's productive resources and access to skills, which resulted in an inequitable distribution to the majority who are black in South Africa."

Councillor Boer (VF+) rose to clarify that he had not used the phrase "those people" in his earlier speech. He addressed the Speaker, stating that she could refer back to his remarks, as he would never have used such language.

The Executive Mayor continued with his comments as follows:

"To date, the South African economy still excludes the vast majority of its people from ownership of productive assets and the position of advanced skills. We are trying to change this story. This is a South African story, and Johannesburg is part of South Africa. This is indeed a difficult balancing act.

Fellow Councillors, through the city's performance report, we know and understand what the previous budget brought us. We also know that we alone will not solve challenges affecting Johannesburg. We know our challenges, and we are solving them together. It is for this reason that the SOCA acknowledged the work we are doing with the private sector. We acknowledged the capacity our workforce and reflected on aligning both our political and administrative capacity to deliver on the strategic direction of the city, known as the Integrated Development Plan. We welcome the Presidential support package, and we look forward to the additional support that will be provided by the Bomb Squad. Next week I will be announcing the Terms of Reference of the Bomb Squad.

Does this budget represent the Joburg we want to see? Well, let us unpack it further. The budget is buying us sustainable services, which is allocated 54.6 billion, aimed at distributing electricity, water and providing shelter. Economic growth, which is allocated 9.2 billion, which is gearing us on our growth pathway to achieve our 3% GDP target, which must include jobs, building a digital public infrastructure, bringing fresh produce to the market, supporting business and attracting investments into the city and integrating our transport system. Social services, which is allocated 12 billion, aimed at helping us build safer, healthier and cohesive cities. Good governance, which is allocated 13.6 billion, which must help us to build a capable and developmental city, that looks after its workforce, fights corruption and keeps us on our toes to remain accountable and looks after our strategy and balance sheet.

To the media, SOCA reflected on some private sector commitments we have received as the City of Johannesburg. These commitments directly respond to strategic objectives of the Presidential Package. As a responsible city, we must create an enable environment so that we can benefit from the 1 billion partnerships from the Johannesburg Parks Alliance. The 10-megaliter reservoir, estimated cost of R40.3 million, fully funded by the private sector, must become a reality. The 27,000 jobs created by the Steyn City must become a reality. Lastly, our Lanseria Smart City District Development Model catalytic project must happen as in yesterday.

The media is wondering if the budget is aligned to SOCA. When I read and listened to our fellow Councillor, also known as Councillor Sharon, I could see the city implementing our energy sustainable strategy that tries to ensure the delivery of conventional power and integrate new distributed energy generation and energy storage facilities into our energy mix. Investing in deprived and marginalised areas with the goal of addressing deep infrastructure backlogs and transform these settlements into liveable, connected and economically viable communities. Revitalising the Inner City by restoring Joburg's Urban Core. Implementing the Lufhereng Mixed-Use Development city is the flagship human settlements intervention in the city. The city delivering at least 43,000 subsidised housing opportunities to residents of Johannesburg. Electrifying informal settlements led by City Power, the electrification of informal settlements remains a top priority, with 296 million allocations focused on connecting to the grid areas such as Diepsloot, Orange Farm, Ivory Park and Kya Sands.

Building resilience and reliability of water security through Joburg Water, which commands the largest average capital allocation. This programme is delivering a series of large-scale interventions aimed at securing Joburg's water future.

Implementing Johannesburg Road Agency's Multi-Year Infrastructure Programme, JRA is tasked with preserving and upgrading the backbone of the city's mobility network. This includes concluding the reconstruction of the Phase 1 of Lillian Ngoyi Road by August 2025, tarring off gravel roads in township areas, and the rehabilitation of stormwater infrastructure. These interventions will reduce flooding, enhance connectivity, and ensure that residents in underserved areas are better integrated into the city's transport grid. Upgrading PIKITUP's Landfills, Rehabilitation, and Waste Infrastructure to support Joburg's transition toward a circular economy. The city's social and community capital strategy coming to life. Upgrading the Jabulani Precinct, which is a cultural and civic repositioning programme. Implementing the Orange Farm Renewal Programme. Supporting the Grand Central Mega Housing Development aimed at delivering 83,000 mixed housing opportunities. This is a first for South Africa. Operationalising the Integrated Intelligence Operations centre.

To the City Manager and the administrative team, all this infrastructure investments must be maintained. As much as we welcome the increase in the repair and maintenance budget, we must get to reach the 10 %budget allocation so that we can take care of our infrastructure. Failure to do so will result in consequence management. Our aging and new infrastructure are the backbone of the Joburg's economy. The economy of Africa depends on us, and we shall not fail.

To the residents of Johannesburg, our deepest condolences go to the family of our beloved Cobrizy. After winning the Oscar for the Best International Feature Film in 2006, Presley Chweneyagae said, I quote, "Us communicating and wanting to be South African each and every day gives us pride for our country." close quote. We must be proud of who we are. Our spaces and surroundings are a reflection pride. It is for this reason we must never tire, and we must always communicate. Through communication we will eventually see the Joburg we all want to see.

Fellow Councillors, as we celebrate and recognize Africa, let us pay our final respect to one of our giants of African literature, Professor Ngūgĩ wa Thiong'o, who passed on yesterday. Your literature liberated the minds of many Africans, and for this we thank you.

In conclusion, whilst we take care of the IDP and budget as entrusted by the Municipal System Act 32 of 2000, which guides us to establish a simple and enabling framework for the core process of planning, performance management, resource mobilisation, and organisational change, which underpin the notion of development and local government. For you as voting Councillors, let us support the budget and please use your R10 wisely. I thank you, Madam Speaker."

4 RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

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

Item 1 2025/2026 INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT
PLAN (IDP) REVIEW AND 2025/2026
DEPARTMENTAL AND MUNICIPAL
ENTITIES BUSINESS PLANS

After deliberations, the Speaker referred members to the recommendation on page 1.8 and asked if the item was agreed to. She noted the affirmative responses and indicated that the item was accordingly approved.

Councillor Christians (DA) recorded the Democratic Alliance's dissent in terms of Rule 84 of the Standing Rules and Orders of Council.

RESOLVED

That the City of Johannesburg's 2025/2026 Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and 2025/2026 Departmental and Municipal Entities Business Plans be tabled at Council for final approval.

(GROUP STRATEGY, POLICY COORDINATION AND RELATIONS)

(Mpho Tladi)

(DA DISSENT)

Item 2 TABLING OF THE 2025/26 INSTITUTIONAL
SERVICE DELIVERY BUDGET AND
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (SDBIP)

After deliberations, the Speaker indicated that the item was for noting and asked if it was noted. She noted the affirmative responses and confirmed that the item was accordingly noted.

Councillor Christians (DA) recorded the DA's dissent in terms of Rule 84 of the Standing Rules and Orders of Council.

Councillor De Lange (VF+) noted a serious concern on behalf of the Freedom Front Plus, requesting that it be recorded in the minutes.

RESOLVED

That the 2025/26 Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) is noted by Council.

(GROUP STRATEGY, POLICY COORDINATION AND RELATIONS)

(Mpho Tladi)

(DA DISSENT)

Item 3 THE 2025/26–2027/28 MEDIUM TERM
BUDGET AND RELATED DOCUMENTATION
FOR THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

This item was considered concurrently with Items 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 3E, and 3F.

After deliberations, the Speaker posed the question to the House; however, the response was unclear as some Councillors responded in the affirmative while others responded in the negative. She put the item to a vote, and the results were as follows:

FOR - 144

AGAINST - 104

ABSTAIN – 0

Councillor Christians (DA) recorded the Democratic Alliance's dissent, and Councillor De Lange (VF+) recorded the dissent of the Freedom Front Plus, both in terms of Rule 84 of the Standing Rules and Orders of Council, in respect of Items 3, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 3E, and 3F.

Councillor Rahn (DA) requested that the attendance register for the day be provided afterwards for record purposes, noting that the meeting started with 219 Councillors present and had since increased to 248.

Items 3, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 3E, and 3F were carried.

**ITEM 3A: 2025/26 – 2027/28 MEDIUM-TERM OPERATING
BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG**

RESOLVED

1. That the consolidated operating revenue of R84.8 billion, operating expenditure of R80.7 billion, taxation of R44.9 million and capital grants and contributions of R4.1 billion for the City of Johannesburg for the financial year 2025/26, and the indicatives for the projected medium-term period 2026/27 to 2027/28 be approved as set out in the following attachments:
 - 1.1 The consolidated operating budget for the City, Core Administration and Municipal Entities as reflected in Annexure A, B and C.
 - 1.2 The operating revenue and expenditure budget by vote for the City as reflected in Annexure D.
2. That the subsidies payable by Core Administration to the following Municipal Entities be approved:

Municipal Entity	Original Budget 2024/25	Adjusted Budget 2024/25	Budget 2025/26	Estimate 2026/27	Estimate 2027/28
	R 000	R 000	R 000	R 000	R 000
Pikitup	1 207 377	1 213 075	1 195 477	1 140 794	1 122 510
Johannesburg Roads Agency	1 394 601	1 432 075	1 465 600	1 498 107	1 566 444
Metrobus	622 766	659 660	667 698	691 403	722 518
Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo	1 098 723	1 171 808	1 238 992	1 284 228	1 341 988
Johannesburg Development Agency	72 166	65 715	68 570	71 413	74 627
Johannesburg Property Company	656 397	695 732	790 128	801 641	837 714
Metropolitan Trading Company	224 616	224 856	227 869	233 044	243 528
Johannesburg Social and Housing Company	133 501	143 863	140 081	138 590	141 951
Joburg City Theatres	205 358	208 443	211 540	215 105	224 725
Joburg Tourism	91 320	90 651	101 269	105 014	109 740
City Power	304 375	304 375	343 152	361 545	383 925
Total subsidies to ME's	6 011 201	6 210 253	6 450 376	6 540 884	6 769 670

3. That the supporting information contained in the 2025/26 – 2027/28 Medium-Term Revenue and Expenditure Budget document as required in terms of Section 17(3) of the Municipal Finance Management Act (Act 56 of 2003) be approved in conjunction with this report.
4. That it should be noted that the budget is in line with the national budget (Division of Revenue Bill) as presented by the Minister of Finance on 21 May 2025.

ITEM 3B: 2025/26 – 2027/28 MEDIUM-TERM CAPITAL
BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

RESOLVED

1. That the capital budget of R8 700 420 000 for the year 2025/26, R9 024 994 000 for the year 2026/27 and R8 489 511 000 for the year 2027/28 of the City of Johannesburg be approved in terms of Section 16 (3) of the MFMA as set out in the following schedules:
 - 1.1 Capital budget by vote for each of the Municipal Entities and Core Administration as reflected in Annexure A.
 - 1.2 Capital budget by project for each of the Municipal Entities and Core Administration as reflected in Annexure B.
2. That it should be noted that the budget is in line with the national budget (Division of Revenue Bill) as presented by the Minister of Finance on 21 May 2025.

ITEM 3C: THE REPORT ON OUTCOMES OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION
ON THE PROPOSED 2025/26 BUDGET AND ITS REVENUE
RAISING MEASURES AND THE TECHNICAL EVALUATION
LED BY NATIONAL TREASURY

RESOLVED

- 1 That Council note the body of the report and how the legislative requirements as they relate to public participation have been complied with noting various pieces of legislation.
- 2 That Council, after careful consideration of the analysis of comments made and the technical recommendations that should be carried into the final budget note that in terms of section 11 (3)(i) and 75a (1) and (2) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 2000, 32 of 2000, as amended, read with Section 24(2)(c)(ii) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 56 of 2003 and the Sections 9 and 14 of the Local Government: Municipal Property Rates Act, 6 of 2004 hereby, approve the proposed rates and tariffs; for the 2025/26 financial year, as set out in Annexures 1 to 23, and the property rates bylaw as set out in Item 3D of the Council Agenda.
- 3 That the approved rates and tariffs, and the property rates bylaw be implemented with effect from 1 July 2025

- 4 That, in terms of Sections 17(3)(a)(ii) and 22(a)(i) and (ii) of the Local Government Municipal Finance Management Act, 56 of 2003 and Sections 21, 21A(1) and 75A(3) of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act, 32 of 2000, as amended and also Section 14(3) of the Municipal Property Rates Act, 6 of 2004, the following legislative compliance processes were undertaken as reflected in the body of the report:
- (i) A display a copy of the resolution in the manner prescribed Section 75A (3)(a) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 32 of 2000, as amended.
 - (ii) A publication in newspapers of general circulation of a notice in the manner prescribed in section 75A (3)(b) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 32 of 2000, as amended.
 - (iii) Through the above platforms as contained in the body of the report, the substance of public consultation was shared with the ratepayers.
- 5 That a copy of the notice referred to in Paragraph 5(ii) above be sent forthwith to the MEC for Local Government and the National and Provincial Treasury in terms of Section 75A(4) of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act, 32 of 2000 as amended.
- 6 That specific for property rating as required through sections 5, 6 and 14 of the Local Government: Municipal Property Rate Act, 6 of 2004 read with its amendments, the revised Property Rates Policy and its By-law be approved, noting that a resolution on levying of rates should be placed in the *Provincial Gazette*, and the notice be made by the City Manager within 60 days.
- 7 That a copy of the finally approved Tariff Charges be sent forthwith to the National and Provincial Treasury in terms of Section 24(3) of the Local Government Municipal Finance Management Act, 56 of 2003.

ITEM 3D: DRAFT RATES POLICY AND RATES BY-LAW

RESOLVED

That Council approves the 2025/26 Draft Rates Policy (Annexure A) and 2025/26 Draft Rates Policy By-laws (Annexure B).

ITEM 3E: TRADING SERVICES REFORM

RESOLVED

- 1 That the contents of the report and the information contained in Annexures A, B, C, D, and E thereto be approved.

- 2 That Council recognising the importance of the eight minimum commitments to service delivery improvement, and to access and maintain access to the metro trading services incentive grant, undertakes the following resolutions in relation to the A3 PIAP (v1) submissions by Johannesburg Water and City Power:
- 2.1 RESOLUTION 1:
- 2.1.1 by June 2026 have reviewed and enhanced the existing service compact clarifying the separation of roles between service authority (CoJ) and service provider (entities), and defining accountabilities and authorities accordingly, as per M1 (SPoMA Service Compact). The revised compact will be submitted for Council approval to formalise enhanced institutional arrangements that support effective oversight and accountability.
- 2.1.2 by June 2026 maintain appointment of the head of the trading services as part of the existing Municipal Entities, with the appropriate commercial and engineering skills and experience, with performance targets prioritising reform imperatives. In addition, finalise and adopt revised job descriptions for the heads of trading services (i.e. MD of Joburg Water and CE of City Power), to ensure incorporation of all key commercial functions, as per M2 (SPoMA Appointment).
- 2.1.3 By June 2026, review and enhance the macro-organisational structure for trading services to reflect the incorporation of all commercial functions and establish clear reporting lines between the service provider (Entity), and service authority (City). This refinement will give effect to the mandate, responsibilities, and accountability of the heads of municipal-owned entities, in alignment with M3 (SPoMA Organisational Structure).
- 2.1.4 By June 2026 conduct a review of the delegation of Operational Control (management of operations, finance and performance metrics) which gives effect to and supports the mandate, responsibility and accountability of the head of the Municipal Entity (trading services provider) for all operational and supporting value chains as per M4 (SPoMA Delegations).
- 2.1.5 By June 2026 develop a multi-year utility financial model (i.e. reflecting utility characteristics and requirements) and use this to prioritise and generate a Business & Investment Plan to achieve long-term strategic objectives starting from 2026/27, according to the requirements set out in M5 (Financial Model and Business & Investment Plan).

- 2.1.6 By June 2026 ensure that its overall metro budget for the 2026/27 MTREF accommodates, supports and funds the business and investments plans of its trading services, to the maximum extent possible, as set out in M6 (Budget support of Trading Service Business & Investment Plan).
- 2.1.7 By June 2026 ensure that it can provide full separate AFS per trading service for the 2026/27 financial year and thereafter, and the associated flows and balances statement, as set out in M7 (Financial Transparency).
- 2.1.8 By June 2026 have in place and effective additional capacity to support and manage the planned organisational change; and additional capacity to support the planned increase in trading services capex, as set out in M8 (Support for the management of organisational change and increased delivery).

2.2 RESOLUTION 2:

- 2.1.1 It is recommended Council recognise that the minimum commitments resolved on resolution 1, must be maintained throughout the life of the metro trading service reform programme, and that any dismantling of these commitments will preclude further participation in the programme impacting its ability to secure the incentive grants associated with the programme.

2.3 RESOLUTION 3:

- 2.3.1 It is recommended that Council further acknowledge that overall metro audit performance is also an essential prerequisite for participation in the programme, and that any adverse or disclaimed metro AG audit opinion will preclude further participation by that metro in the incentive grant programme until a satisfactory audit result is achieved.

ITEM 3F: REVISED FUNDING PLAN FOR THE 2025/26 MTEF

RESOLVED

1. Long-term Borrowing:

- a) That Council approves the raising of the budgeted external long-term borrowing of R3,500,000,000.00; R3,500,000,000.00 and R2,700,000,000.00 for the 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28 respectively per the approved budget or after Council approved adjustment/ revised budgets as may arise using either a bilateral loan, DFI funding, bond issuance, assets backed finance, private placements or combination thereof.

- b) That Council approves the raising of approved budgeted borrowing or revised budget as may arise of bilateral loans from any or combination of the following financial institutions: ABSA Bank, First National Bank, Nedbank, Standard Bank and Investec; DFI funding from development institutions such as: Development Bank Of Southern Africa (DBSA), Agence Francaise De Developpement (AFD), KfW, China Construction Bank; African Development Bank (AfDB), European Investment Bank (EIB), International Finance Corporation (IFC); Asian Infrastructure Development Bank (AIIB), New Development Bank and any other financial institution procured through an official procurement process or legislative provisions.
- c) That Council approves the pricing of no more than 400 basis points above the government benchmark bond for long term debt for financing medium term capital budget for 2025/26 to 2027/28.
- d) That Council approves the exploring and executing of the long-term debt refinancing up to R5 billion in the medium-term capital budget for 2025/26 to 2027/28 to lower the City's weighted cost of borrowing in line with Section 46(5) of the MFMA.
- e) That Council approves the utilisation of the alternative sources of funding and off-balance sheet mechanisms such as Infrastructure Fund, Inhouse Infrastructure Fund, Land Value Capture; PPP's, Project Finance, Assets Backed Finance, ECA's, Climate Finance, and other potential funding structures to ensure funding of approved unfunded economic capital projects in the medium-term capital budget for 2025/26 to 2027/28

3. Short-term Borrowing:

- a) That Council approves the utilization of the standby banking credit facility from Standard Bank of up to R675 million that is part of the current transactional banking offering during the 2025/26 financial year in line with the current extended contract expiring on 31 October 2025 or upon any future extended date(s) should any further extension(s) of the contract be granted.
- b) That Council approves the establishment and utilization of a short-term bank facility or raising of short-term debt with any or combination of the following institutions: ABSA Bank, Rand Merchant Bank, Nedbank, Standard Bank, Investec and Development Bank of Southern Africa,
- c) That Council approves the issuance of commercial paper.
- d) That Council approves utilisation of the new standby short-term bank facility as part of the new transactional banking contract.
- e) That the total combination of new short-term debt/ bank facility; commercial paper issuance; and new standby short-term bank facility as part of the new transactional banking contract may not exceed R5 billion at a cost of Jibar plus up to 350 basis points in the 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28 financial years to mend any short-term cash flow mismatches that may arise.

4. That in the event of a credit rating downgrade or other event which results in capital market failure, the City Manager, the Group Chief Financial Officer, and the Group Head: Treasury and Financial Strategy in consultation with Group Head: Legal and Contracts Department be authorised to adjust all the proposed pricing thresholds that are necessary to protect the interests of the City and to align to the new credit rating.
5. That the City Manager, the Group Chief Financial Officer and the Group Head: Treasury and Financial Strategy be authorised by Council to negotiate, finalise and execute the terms and conditions of all agreements (loan contracts and debt capital markets listing documents) and any other documents to give effect to the external borrowing requirements or addendums to the contracts as well as for utilisation of all newly approved grant funding/ technical assistance, in consultation with the Group Legal and Contracts Department subject to such terms and conditions that are necessary to protect the interests of the City.
6. That Council authorises the City Manager to sign all long-term and short-term debt agreements and related documents, in accordance with the prescripts of Sections 45 and 46 of the MFMA.

(GROUP FINANCE)

(Ntuthuzelo April)

(DIRECTOR: GROUP BUDGET AND PLANNING)

(Tel. 011 358 329)

(DA DISSENT)

(VF+ DISSENT)

Item 4 SPECIAL ADJUSTMENT OF THE OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR THE 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR AS A RESULT OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT GRANT REVIEW

After deliberations, the Speaker posed the question to the House; however, the response was unclear as some Councillors responded in the affirmative while others responded in the negative. She put the item to a vote, and the results were as follows:

FOR: 144

AGAINST: 101

ABSTAIN: 0

Councillor Christians (DA) recorded the Democratic Alliance's dissent, and Councillor De Lange (VF+) recorded the dissent of the Freedom Front Plus, both in terms of Rule 84 of the Standing Rules and Orders of Council.

RESOLVED

1. That the Adjustment Operating Revenue and Expenditure Budget for Core Administration and Municipal Entities as set out in Annexure A, B, C and D be approved.

2. That the Adjustment Capital Budget for 2024/25 amounting to R7 490 894 000 as set out in Annexure E and F be approved.
3. That the supporting information contained in the 2024/25 Adjusted Revenue and Expenditure Budget document as required in terms of Section 17(3) of the Municipal Finance Management Act (Act 56 of 2003) be considered in conjunction with this report.

(GROUP FINANCE)
(DA DISSENT)
(VF+ DISSENT)

5 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker reminded Councillors that the next Ordinary Council meeting is scheduled for 25 and 26 June 2025.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 19:50.



SPEAKER OF COUNCIL
CLLR N MTHEMBU

19/06/2025

DATE