



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS (SOCA), OF THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG MUNICIPALITY, HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 7 MAY 2025, AT 14:00, FOLLOWED BY THE DEBATE ON THURSDAY, 8 MAY 2025 AT 10:00 AT THE CONSTANCE CONNY BAPELA COUNCIL CHAMBER, METROPOLITAN CENTRE, BRAAMFONTEIN

**SPEAKER OF COUNCIL
COUNCILLOR M N MTHEMBU**

- 1 OPENING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**
- 2 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**
- 3 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR (7 MAY 2025)**
- 4 DEBATE ON THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS BY POLITICAL PARTIES (8 MAY 2025)**
- 5 RESPONSE BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR (8 MAY 2025)**
- 6 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

1(a) MEMBERS PRESENT

The Speaker: Councillor M N Mthembu

The Executive Mayor: Councillor S E Morero

Abdool, F	Harris, R
Aphane, J D	Hlatshwayo, S
Arnolds, M S	Hlatshwayo, S M
Atterbury, E	Hooper, R S
Avant-Smith, C	Horwitz, J
Baloyi, D L	Huggett, E A
Benjamin, R F	Hughes, Z
Bini, L	Jacobs, B
Bittkau, R	Jacobs, K
Bodenstein, H	Jonker, N
Boer, C	Kaldine, J
Bolani, M G	Karolia, Y
Brand, D G	Kgeletsane, M O
Buthlezi, T C	Khanyile, N M
Campbell-Cloete	Khumalo, X I
Chame, F	Kreusch, S
Chauke, K L	Kwapeng, C
Cherry, J	Landis, R
Chetsanga, H	Lebatlang, T Z
Christians, A	Lebea, M G
Chuma, A T	Lefutso, L
Coogan, L C	Liebenberg, E
Cook, M	Lobi, M
Coutriers, M J	Louw, M A
Coverdale, D L T	Maake, M J
Crichton, M	Mabaso, M P
Da Gama, V M	Mabelebele, S S
Da rocha, C M D	Mabuke, T A
Dammie, B H	Mabunda, T E
De Lange, F C	Mabuza, S K L
Deppe, A J	Madiba, T J
Dewes, D S	Magwaza, B L P
Dlamini, B	Magwentshu, L C
Durand, G V M	Maila, S M
Echeozonjoku, B C	Makamo, S S
Edward, N	Makhafola, E
Finn, C E	Makhuba, H N
Foley, D T	Maluleka, T
Fourie-Shawe, C	Manganyi, D B
Francisco, D B	Mangena, T D
Galeshewe, T M	Marais, A F
Gantsho, L	Marais, S I
Goosen, J W	Marema, V A
Harman, L J	Marumo, T

Masera, H	Molala, S M
Mashala, K	Molefe, B J
Mashinini, S	Molefe, M
Masoga, L M	Molefe, S B
Masuku, H P	Molise, L D
Masuku, L	Moloisane, D
Maswazi, R	Mosehla, K J
Matabane, O	Mothopi, O Z
Mathe, G	Mphaho, M A
May, Z	Mphefo, L M P
Mavhona, L S	Mpolobosho, M M
Mazibuko, A L	Mposula, T
Mazibukwana, M	Mpotulo, G S
Mbambala, T J	Mulelu, M
Mchunu, A	Munyayi, V E
Meyers, T	Mutavhatsindi, N T
Mgaga, B	Nair, R K
Mgcina, S E	Ncube, W M
Mhlari, T M	Ndlela, M C
Mhlongo, T A	Ndou, N L
Mkasi, G	Ndou, P
Mkhize, T	Ndou, P
Mkhonto, M S	Ndzondo, C M
Mmbengwa, M N	Nefdt, P W
Mmota, L	Nethamba, R
Mngadi, W B	Ngema, S V
Mnisi, M	Ngoepe, C S
Mnisi, N D	Nguse, S
Mnyameni, M	Ngwenya, F N
Moatshe, K	Ngwetsheni, M M
Modladlaba, D S	Nhlapo, C P
Modukanene, L C	Niemand, G J
Modupi, D N	Nkokou, T P
Moepi, N J D	Nkomo, B
Moeti, O T	Nkomo, E T
Mofokeng, J	Nkomo, P T
Mogapi, T A	Nkonyeni, S P
Mohamed, N	Nkubungu, L
Mohlala, C	Nkwanyana, P B
Mohlala, P K	Nofemela, N
Mokoari, Z	Ntombela, M J
Mokoena, G	Ntshidi, T E
Mokoena, M S	Nyaqela, M M
Mokoena, P	Nyembe, M M
Mokoka, M L	Nyembe, Z P
Mokome, J M	Nzimande, C
Mokwena, T M	Papo, M M

Pelzer, R
Phometsi, P S
Pietersen, J
Pietersen, N
Pitso, K
Radebe, T T
Rahn, N J
Rakosa, P M
Ramafikeng, D J
Ramaru, G
Rambani, N S
Raphadu, A T
Raseruthe, S H
Reddy, V M
Roberts, F C
Rohlssen, C K
Santana, C G
Schay, D
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
Tshwaku, M
Tshehlo, G J
Tsotetsi, 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
Xuma, L
Zazini, A
Zigebe, Y L
Zondo, L T
Zungu, N G
Zwane, S

1 OPENING & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Speaker welcomed the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Councillor S Morero; Whip of Council, Councillor N Zungu; 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; acting City Manager, Mr T Makola; Secretary to Council, Mr A Gobinca; officials of the City of Johannesburg; residents of the City of Johannesburg and members of the Media to the State of the City Address. She further acknowledged the following guests that were present in the Council Chambers:

1.	MAMOLOKO KUBAYI	FORMER COUNCILLOR AND NOW MINISTER OF JUSTICE
2.	PARKS TAU	FORMER EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF JOBURG AND NOW MINISTER OF TRADE, INDUSTRY & COMPETITION
3.	HERMAN MASHABA	ACTIONS SA PRESIDENT & FORMER EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF JOBURG
4.	AMOS MASONDO	FORMER EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF JOBURG & CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP & ANC GAUTENG CO-CONVENER
5.	MPHO PHALATSE	FORMER EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF JOBURG
6.	DAVID MAHLOBO	DEPUTY MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION
7.	PANYAZA LESUFI	PREMIER OF GAUTENG PROVINCE
8.	NONCEBA GCALEKA-MAZIBUKO	FORMER SPEAKER OF JOBURG COUNCIL AND NOW ANC MP
9.	MNCEDI NDWANANA	CITY OF TSHWANE SPEAKER OF COUNCIL
10.	SNUKI ZIKALALA	ANC VETERANS LEAGUE PRESIDENT
11.	HOPE PAPO	ANC GAUTENG COORDINATOR
12.	MOSHE KOMA	EFF GAUTENG SECRETARY
13.	NKULULEKO DUNGA	EFF GAUTENG CHAIRPERSON
14.	FUNZI NGOBENI	FORMER COUNCILLOR AND NOW ACTIONS SA MPL & ACTIONS SA PROVINCIAL CHAIRPERSON
15.	MAHLODI MOOPE	SA AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH SUDAN
16.	DULTON ADAMS	CHAIR OF CHAIRS GAUTENG PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE DA MPL & GAUTENG LEGISLATURE LEADER OF OFFICIAL OPPOSITION
17.	SOLLY MSIMANGA	
18.	SASABONA MANGANYE	ANC JOHANNESBURG REGIONAL SECRETARY
19.	TREVOR FOWLER	FORMER JOBURG CITY MANAGER
20.	MATSHIDISO MFIKOE	FORMER COUNCILLOR AND NOW ANC MPL
21.	WENDY ALEXANDER	FORMER COUNCILLOR AND NOW DA MP
22.	U NDABEZITHA	INKOSI YAMA NDEBELE
23.	LUKHANYO NEER	COO OF THABO MBEKI FOUNDATION
24.	POGISHO MTHIMUNYE	DA DEPUTY PROVINCIAL CHAIRPERSON

2 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

<i>Councillor Mazibuko, N</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill health</i>
<i>Councillor Khomongoe, N</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill health</i>
<i>Councillor Kunene, K</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Ponsonby, D A</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Councill Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mkhonza, N F</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Hoén, J N</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Truluck, T F</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Koekemoer, M</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Chabalala, M D</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Suddaby, J</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Jainoodeen, Z</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Johnson, N</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill health</i>
<i>Councillor Gwamanda, K</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Amad, T</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Seerane, M K</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Party business</i>
<i>Councillor Mabidilala, M P</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Party business</i>
<i>Councillor Radebe, N P</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Tshedo, J G</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Komane, S A</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Raholane, M W</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Molefe, E W</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Zitha, S L</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Dladla, D</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Ngwenya, J A</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Ntoele, N L</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Nenemba, T</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Nkosi, R A L</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Leshilo, R S</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Telekoa, A T</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>

The following Councillors were granted permission to arrive late

Councillor Sekwaila B J
Councillor Wilskut D
Councillor Manganyi D B
Councillor Makhuba H N
Councillor Mchunu A
Councillor Echeozonjoku B
Councillor Maila S
Councillor Steenkamp D
Councillor Sifumba N
Councillor Crichton M
Councillor Marais S
Councillor Jacobs K

3 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR (7 MAY 2025)

The Executive Mayor presented the State of the City and copies of the speech were distributed after the meeting.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker announced that the copies of the State of the City Address will be distributed by officials outside the Council Chambers. She further informed the Council that the Debate on the State of the City Address by political parties will be convened tomorrow, 8 May 2025, at 10:00. She thereafter thanked Councillors and the distinguished guests for their presence on the special day when the Executive Mayor delivered the State of the City Address.

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

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

AT THIS STAGE, THE TIME BEING 16:00, COUNCIL ADJOURNED UNTIL THURSDAY, 8 MAY 2025, AT 10:00 FOR THE DEBATE ON THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS.

On resumption, Thursday, 8 May 2025, the following Councillors were present:

MEMBERS PRESENT

The Speaker: Councillor M N Mthembu

The Executive Mayor: Councillor S E Morero

Abdool, F	Gwamanda, K
Amad, T	Harman, L J (DA)
Aphane, J D	Harris, R
Arnolds, M S	Hlatshwayo, S
Atterbury, E	Hlatshwayo, S M
Avant-Smith, C	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	Jonker, N
Brand, D G	Kaldine, J
Buthelezi, T C	Karolia, Y
Campbell-Cloete	Kgeletsane, M O
Cherry, J	Khanyile, N M
Chetsanga, H	Khomongoe, N
Christians, A	Khumalo, X I
Chuma, A T	Komane, S A
Coogan, L C	Kreusch, S
Cook, M	Kunene, K
Coutriers, M J	Kwapeng, C
Coverdale, D L T	Lebatlang, T Z
Crichton, M	Lebea, M G
Da rocha, C M D	Lefutso, L
Dammie, B H	Liebenberg, E
De Lange, F C	Louw, M A
Dewes, D S	Mabaso, M P
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	Makhuba, H N
Gantsho, L	Maluleka, T
Goosen, J W	Manganyi, D B

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

Nyaqela, M M	Sherman, G J
Nyembe, M M	Shumba, K A
Nyembe, Z P	Sifumba, N
Nzimande, C	Simelane, P
Papo, M M	Simelane, S O
Pelzer, R	Simonse, L C
Phometsi, P S	Sindani, F P
Pietersen, J	Smit, P A
Pietersen, N	Smouse, B M
Pitso, K	Sondag, J M
Radebe, N P	Steenkamp, D
Radebe, T T	Stewart, A J
Rahn, N J	Supe, N P
Raholane, M W	Tabane, M C
Ramafikeng, D J	Tambani, P S
Ramaru, G	Tefu, P V
Rambani, N S	Tshedo, J G
Raphadu, A T	Tshehlo, G J
Raseruthe, S H	Tsotetsi, L Y M
Reddy, V M	Twala, Y A
Roberts, F C	Van Wyk, W M
Rohlssen, C K	Wax, K P
Santana, C G	Williams, M C
Schay, D	Wilskut, D
Seerane, M K	Xuma, L
Sehoai, R J	Zazini, A
Sekhu, M V	Zigebe, Y L
Sekwaila, B J	Zitha, S L
Shackleford, L M	Zondo, L T
Shange, P A	Zungu, N G
Shawe, Z	Zwane, S

1 OPENING

The Speaker welcomed the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Councillor S Morero; Whip of Council, Councillor N Zungu; 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; acting City Manager, Mr T Makola; Secretary to Council, Mr A Gobinca; officials of the City of Johannesburg; residents of the City of Johannesburg and members of the Media to the Debate on the State of the City Address.

She thereafter said that after yesterday's State of the City Address, political parties will engage in the Executive Mayor's Address and the Mayor will respond in that regard.

The Speaker allowed 10 minutes for Legal to verify the number of Councillors present to confirm the quorum. Legal confirmed that 152 Councillors were present, therefore, the meeting could continue because there was a quorum.

2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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

<i>Councillor Hoén, J N</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Van der Merwe, M</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Truluck, T F</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Chabalala, M D</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Masera, H</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Da Gama, V M</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Deppe, A J</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Landis, R</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Council Business</i>
<i>Councillor Suddaby, J</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Koekemoer, M</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Chame, F</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Council Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mkhonza, N F</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Ponsonby, D A</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Johnson, N</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Jainoodeen, Z</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Wissler, S T J</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Rakosa, P M</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mabelebele, S S</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Party Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mothopi, O Z</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Maake, M J</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Lobi, M</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Mazibuko, N</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Leshilo, R S</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Nenemba, T</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Ngwenya, J A</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Ntoele, N L</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Molefe, E W</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Baloyi, D L</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Telekoa, A T</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Makhafola, E</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Ill Health</i>
<i>Councillor Chauke, K L</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mpolobosho, M M</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Mokoena, M S</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>
<i>Councillor Meyers, T</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>Private Business</i>

The following Councillors were granted permission to arrive late:

Councillor Mnisi M
Councillor Kreuzsch S
Councillor Khanyile N M
Councillor Nyembe M M
Councillor Kunene K
Councillor Mhlongo T A
Councillor Atterbury E
Councillor Coutriers M
Councillor Coverdale D

*Councillor Liebenberg E
Councillor Nyaqela M
Councillor Bini L
Councillor Ntshidi E*

The following Councillors were granted permission to leave early:

<i>Councillor Ntombela J</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>to leave at 16:00</i>
<i>Councillor Raseruthe S</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>to leave at 13:00</i>
<i>Councillor Tswaku M</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>to leave at 12:00</i>
<i>Councillor Mogapi T A</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>to leave 13:00</i>
<i>Councillor Cook M</i>	<i>:</i>	<i>to leave at 17:00</i>

3 DEBATE ON THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS BY POLITICAL PARTIES (8 MAY 2025)

Councillor Magwentshu L C (ATM) addressed Council as follows:

“Madam Speaker, as the African Transformation Movement, we want to see a functioning Johannesburg, a habitable Johannesburg a safe Johannesburg, we want to see a Johannesburg that is a better place in the world. We want to see an economically thriving Johannesburg as a place of opportunities.

I stand here, Madam Speaker, representing the ATM on behalf of the people of Johannesburg who voted for us in 2021. I agree with the diagnosis of the Executive Mayor, Councillor Dada Morero that the City of Johannesburg is going through a difficult time.

I want to appeal to the Executive Mayor to tread carefully on the rotation issue of Senior Managers, as there are laws governing labour relations in this country. As much as I am tempted to present my political analysis of the SOCA, I chose to resist the temptation and give you what the people are saying as follows:

Lebone Mashego wrote; Can we have a cleaner Joburg? Winter is here, our streetlights need to work, grass cutting is a problem after these rains, JMPD visibility should be more, it is winter, we need more youth programmes. Service delivery protests are led by unemployed youth, and we need to get them off the streets.

Lwazi Kelembe wrote; When is the city addressing the issue of illegal mining that is destroying the infrastructure. We have roads that are closed and businesses are suffering because of that. Law enforcement is the main issue. Traffic signals are not working as they are being destroyed for copper. when is the city going to deal with scrap yards that receive materials from the COJ infrastructure?

Ntandazo Mtebele wrote; Load reduction is affecting our Area. Every week we have 10hrs without electricity.

Moferefere Tshabalala (Ward 10 ATM Member) wrote; The ward is in a state, potholes are all over, yet we see Eldorado being serviced. Where is our long-awaited clinic? Are we being ignored? We demand our clinic.

Khonzaphi Mbele wrote; For years Drieziek has been receiving missed calls when it comes to service delivery (they see the library, they see the bus/taxi rank, they see the Olympic size swimming pool), but none of those are operational; they still walk on dusty roads from 1996.

Themba Baloyi (Lehae) wrote; We still walk on dusty streets; no lights and drains are not cleaned.

Mxolisi Makhubu wrote: Honourable Councillor, please submit:

- 1. High drug activity in the Hillbrow area – urgent need for intervention to dismantle drug syndicates and rehabilitate affected youth.*
- 2. Hijacked buildings – proliferation of unsafe, illegally occupied buildings posing safety, health, and criminal risks.*
- 3. Filthy and neglected streets – the city is visibly dirty; a structured nightly cleaning program (as done in Tshwane) should be implemented.*
- 4. Rising crime rates – residents and businesses are living in fear; stronger community policing and visible law enforcement are needed.*
- 5. Unreliable basic services – frequent water and electricity outages without timely communication or resolution.*
- 6. Collapse of infrastructure – potholes, leaking pipes, broken streetlights, and deteriorating public facilities across wards.*
- 7. Little/no support for informal trading – street vendors are essential to the economy and urgent structured assistance is needed rather than their goods being confiscated by JMPD.*
- 8. Youth unemployment – the City must lead in creating sustainable, inclusive youth employment opportunities and skills development.*
- 9. Failing waste management system – Pikitup inefficiencies have led to unsightly illegal dumping and public health concerns.*
- 10. Regulation of the inner-city economy - many foreign nationals are using this economic sector as a front for illegal businesses, with reports of human trafficking syndicates being rife. We need URGENT intervention here.*
- 11. There is a need for a dedicated arts and culture programme for many of these young artists standing at traffic lights dancing on crates.*

The above clearly indicates that the people of Johannesburg are concerned about the place they also call home.

The Executive Mayor reminded us of his oath of office. It is the same oath which drives me as I stand here. I agree with the Mayor that Johannesburg needs a turnaround strategy. People of Johannesburg waited for too long. The ever-increasing unemployment which largely affects young people has reached a pandemic stage.

We agree with the Mayor that the City faces rapid dilapidation. We agree with the Mayor that every day we must listen and respond timeously to the voices of Joburgers. All they want is electricity, water, transport, safety and housing. We fully appreciate that the Mayor has demonstrated preparedness to work hard towards restoring Johannesburg as a place of preference to many.

As the African Transformation Movement, we stand ready to support the Executive Mayor in his plans to recover the City. Count the ATM in when you restore the City. Count the ATM in when you turn the City around. Count the ATM in when you refurbish the aged infrastructure. Count the ATM in when you create employment for the young people of Johannesburg. Count the ATM in when you criss cross the length and breadth of the City, inspiring hope to the citizens.

ATM will always support any efforts towards rejuvenation of Johannesburg and restoring it back to its former glory. Let the promises of the Executive Mayor be realised in our lifetime for the benefit of the 6 million residents whose hopes are on the promises made during SOCA.

Peace in our Land, Peace in our lifetime."

Councillor Zigebe Y (UDM) addressed Council as follows:

"Madam Speaker, Executive Mayor, Councillors, and residents of Johannesburg.

The Johannesburg we all want is not imagined in boardrooms, it is born in townships, streets, informal settlements, clinics, schools, and homes. It is defined by lived reality and built by those who choose the difficult road of governance.

The mayor's address did not offer illusions. It called us to account on infrastructure, safety, housing, youth development, and governance, and it reaffirmed that this government is at work.

We face a R300 billion infrastructure backlogs. Our water systems are strained, but under the MMC for Environment and Infrastructure Services, Johannesburg Water is implementing a R27 billion pipeline upgrade and reservoir development plan. Projects like Carlswald and Northern Works are already transforming the experience of residents in high-pressure zones.

This work is not happening in isolation. It is part of a broader commitment to ensuring that every resident, whether in Sandton or Slovoville experiences the full promise of municipal government. It is a commitment to equity in delivery.

On electricity, under the Energy Department, R296 million has been allocated to electrify informal settlements. This is more than a power connection, it is about safety, legality, and quality of life. Substation upgrades, energy-efficiency retrofits, and reduced reliance on Eskom are in motion. We are saying to our communities, your light matters, and your inclusion in the grid is not a favour, it is overdue justice. On roads and mobility, the MMC for Transport and JRA is driving the multi-year infrastructure programme. Gravel roads are being tarred. Stormwater infrastructure is being reinforced. Lillian Ngoyi Road reconstruction will be completed within months. This is restoring movement and dignity to communities affected by geographic isolation.

Through the MMC for Human Settlements, over 73,000 housing opportunities are being delivered. From Lufhereng to Southern Farms, the foundation of spatial justice is being laid. The Inner-City Regeneration Plan, also supported by Development Planning, is converting neglected buildings into homes and economic spaces. We are reclaiming the inner city, not for capital, but for communities.

Through the Health and Social Development Department, clinics like Hikhensile are being upgraded. Shelters for displaced persons are being refurbished. Social inclusion is not an accessory; it is a right. The MMC for Community Development is also investing in multipurpose centres, like in Matholesville and Bertrams, and reviving civic spaces.

The Public Safety Department is central to our war on lawlessness, from cable theft to hijacked buildings, land invasions to illegal dumping. The expanded Integrated Intelligence Operations Centre is coordinating real-time enforcement, while the State of Disaster declaration strengthens our hand. We are saying clearly, the rule of law must return, and our streets must belong to law-abiding residents, not criminals.

The Economic Development Department is activating over 40,000 township jobs through partnerships with Coca-Cola, the Youth Chamber, and others. Innovation hubs, the Y20 platform, and Grow My Business are not concepts; they are realities in Soweto, Alexandra, and Orange Farm. This is what practical economic justice looks like: putting tools, capital, and support into the hands of township entrepreneurs.

Through the Finance Department, revenue collection is being sharpened. Billing systems are being modernised and senior management rotations have begun. The City's fiscal credibility is being rebuilt brick by disciplined brick. This is the hard, unseen work of restoring public trust.

The Corporate and Shared Services Department is leading the internal reform agenda, cleaning systems, enforcing performance, and ensuring that city employees serve not their comfort, but their mandate. Public service must mean something again, and through the Department of Economic Development and Smart City Office, we are laying the groundwork for broadband access, digital public infrastructure, and smart metering technology as a tool for equity and access, not elitism.

Madam Speaker, this administration is equally intentional about those often excluded from the conversation. Through the Gender, Youth and People with Disabilities (GEYODI) portfolio, we are making it clear, the Johannesburg we want is inclusive and accessible clinics. Skills for youth, Safe spaces for women and support for persons with disabilities. This is not charity, it is justice.

Some sit in this chamber confused, unsure whether they are opposition or government. One day they support the programme of action, the next they perform rehearsed outrage. Delusional in posture, ambiguous in purpose. They left the Government of Local Unity when it demanded backbone and now haunt its corridors with gallery politics. However, Johannesburg is not governed by hashtags or livestreams. It is governed by commitment, clarity, and courage.

Madam Speaker, the Johannesburg we want cannot be won with slogans. It is earned through early mornings, honest budgets, responsive departments, and unshakeable discipline.

This administration is governing under strain, but it is governing, nonetheless, and while others debate from the sidelines, we deliver from the frontlines.

Thank you."

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

"Thank you, Madam Speaker. All protocol, observed. Madam Speaker, Afrikaans is 100 years old today. It was recognized for the first time in 1925, but the people existed long before that, through years of oppression, because of language preference.

Madam Speaker, the Mayor, urged us to do a more positive debate, but unfortunately, there is a stark reality staring us in the face. It almost takes me back to the days of Exodus in the Bible, with the 10 plagues. We had burning buildings, roads literally exploding, bridges collapsing, a whole block sinking into the ground, and we had huge floods because of the City's neglect to rehabilitate the riverbeds and their banks. Back to the Mayor's speech, the Mayor mentioned the war on traffic lights and potholes and streetlights. On a personal note, Madam Speaker, when I drive out of my gate in the morning, the first robot I come to has not been working for two years. Let me correct myself, it did work for two days after it was struck by lightning, and only God knows why that happened. Just further up the road on Ontdekkers Road, 50% of the streetlights are not working, and the side streets are riddled with bottles. The Mayor mentioned that people must not go to bed hungry, grants are not the solution, a positive economic climate and job creation are the solution in the City.

He mentioned the history of Joburg, it is all good and well, and the history of the Mayors, but that is not going to solve our current problems in the City. Further, he spoke about water and electricity infrastructure, the backlogs will only be turned around when the City starts investing their own money into these projects. Currently, only capital loans and corporates are providing the money. Freedom Front Plus did provide the Mayor with the solution as two weeks ago, we had a meeting with the Mayor and the MMC.

Then, if we come to the Inner-City Revitalization projects, it will fail for two reasons, crime and grime. What kind of property investor would actually invest in the City if it were dirty and crime ridden. Electricity roll-out in more areas, it might be a good idea, but will these residents be able to pay for these services or will we only enable them in the culture of non-payment? Further to this, it does not make financial sense to only upgrade certain precincts, while other wider infrastructure is dilapidated and crumbling in taxpayers Wards. In region C, where I and even the Mayor resides, we are fortunate enough to have one of the highest collection rates. Taxpayers in Regions A, B and C should be rewarded for carrying the City financially, 20% of their taxes should be ring-fenced to maintain their road, water and electricity infrastructure.

Madam Speaker, the Mayor mentioned the turnaround strategy, it was emailed. I do not know what that is about. He spoke about the CoJ Bomb squad, hopefully the following is in that plan; collect outstanding debts, cut the services or break the culture of non-payment, revamp the supply chain process, and arrest vandals and thieves.

In closing, Madam Speaker, the Mayor mentioned a rotation of MMC's and top management. How can the MMC of Finance six months later become the MMC of Social Housing? Can the MMC of Public Transport become the MMC of Social Development? It is not good business practice; it does not make sense. What about the institutional history and the projects that been there in the past? Then further, we cannot stumble from crisis to crisis and beg, borrow and let me use another word, plead to survive.

In closing, Madam Speaker, the GLU must start making unpopular, not politically aligned decisions to save our City.

I thank you."

Councillor Mnisi N (ANC) addressed Council as follows:

Madam Speaker, Councillor N Mthembu; the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Councillor S Morero; the Whip of Council, Councillor Zungu; the Chair of Chairs; Whip of the ANC caucus; Councillors present; distinguished guests in the gallery; residents of the City of Johannesburg.

Madam Speaker, as the ANC caucus, we rise not only to respond but to affirm. We affirm the bold leadership shown by the Executive Mayor, our very own ANC Chairperson in Johannesburg. The Mayor's address was not a speech; it was a call to action, a road map of hope, a strategy of delivery and above all, a commitment to the people of Johannesburg. This address reflects leadership that is grounded in vision, accountability and implementation.

Madam Speaker, allow us to pay a special tribute to the high impact service delivery program, a flagship initiative that is beginning to restore faith in local government and redefine how service delivery is experienced on the ground. The high impact Service Delivery program is not a slogan; it is a movement. A movement that fixes what is broken, restores what was forgotten and rekindles what was neglected. Let it become the new DNA of Johannesburg that works. Let every region, every ward and every

corner of the City feel the service delivery. This program is not just a checklist of service backlogs, it is a strategic, coordinated and people centered intervention that demonstrates what is possible when government works with urgency and purpose. We commend the Executive Mayor for ensuring that this program is not trapped in bureaucracy but rooted in visible, measurable actions.

Madam Speaker, what we witnessed from the opposition is not just political mischief; it is an assault on service delivery in a targeted move. They went to court to get assistance to withdraw the protectors assigned to our MMCs, fully aware that these officials are at the coalface of high impact service delivery, revenue collection and daily engagement with our communities. This was not an act of fiscal prudence; it was a deliberate attempt to slow down the momentum of a responsive and action driven leadership. However, true to the spirit of the movement, we did not retreat. We continued to serve on the ground in our communities, using our own resources and when they saw that we refused to be discouraged, moving through the City with our own personal arrangements, committed to the people, no matter the personal risks, they panicked. Now they tend to the baseless, frivolous motion of no confidence, cowards dressed in the robes of accountability.

Madam Speaker, our people do not feel progress through spreadsheets; they feel it through working streetlights, running water, clean pavements and safe walkways. We say to the residents of Diepsloot, Ivory Park, Orange Farm, Alexander and Soweto, help is not on the way; help has arrived. We are not dreaming of a better Johannesburg; we are building it. Street by Street and service by service. Madam Speaker, there was once a time when the heartbeat of Johannesburg pulsed proudly through its inner city, a place where families shopped, artists performed, and our community thrived. Today, we reaffirm our commitment to breathe life back into this historical goal, through targeted investment in infrastructure upgrades, precinct management, housing refurbishment and support for informal traders. The City is reclaiming the space for its rightful owners, the people. By partnering with property owners, developers and social entrepreneurs, we are not just restoring buildings, we are reigniting opportunities. The Inner-City Revitalization program is not about nostalgia, it is about possibilities. Transforming decay into dignity, vacancy into vibrancy and fear into freedom. Let us walk the streets of Johannesburg once again with pride.

Executive Mayor, we have concluded that we are creating an informal trading system. All commitments required by the policy have been established, or rather committees required by the policy have been established, we are ready to hit the ground running. We are confident that once the City provides designated, regulated trading zones, it will replace chaos with coordination. Traders operate with dignity. Streets remain clean and business confidence remains inviting to both small and large investors. We are committed to supporting informal traders; by doing so, the City is unlocking economic opportunities for the unemployed and underemployed. This is not just survival. It is an enterprise at the grassroot, creating jobs and feeding families in real time.

Madam Speaker, when we speak of revitalizing the inner-city, we must speak boldly about empowering informal trading places like Kwa Mai-Mai, which are more than just markets. They are a living museum of our culture, resilience, and entrepreneurial spirit. Tourists do not come to Johannesburg for malls only, they come to feel our rhythm, taste our food, and meet our people. That is why the ongoing renovation of Kwa Mai-Mai is so important. Executive Mayor, this is not only about infrastructure, but also about dignity, recognition, and about economic opportunity. These upgrades are part of a broader effort to revitalize informal trading hubs as cultural commercial areas of the inner-city. By doing so, we are formalizing our informal economy and turning neglected spaces into proudly Joburg landmarks. Let us invest in these corridors, not only to grow our local economy but to show that Johannesburg values its own.

Madam Speaker, allow us as the ANC caucus to applaud the Executive Mayor for prioritizing the electrification of informal settlements in the State of the City Address. This bold commitment to invest 260 million through City Power to connect areas like Diepsloot, Orange Farm, Ivory Park and Kya Sands is both visionary and responsive. We commend the Mayor for recognizing that electricity is not just a utility, it is a catalyst for dignity, safety and development. By bringing thousands of households into a formal energy grid, the City is not only reducing risks associated with illegal connections but also laying the foundation for meaningful service delivery and long-term formalization. This is the kind of leadership that puts the people first and we stand firmly behind it.

Madam Speaker, true transformation is measured not by how we serve the powerful but how we uplift the forgotten. The Executive Mayor's commitment to investing in deprived and marginalized areas is not just a policy shift, it is a moral awakening. When we tar roads in Orange Farm, electrify shacks in Kya Sands, and build clinics in Lawley, we are not simply delivering services, we are healing wounds of exclusion. We are building bridges over decades of neglect. This administration is sending a clear message, the poor are not invisible, their lives matter. This future matters. As the ANC caucus we applaud the Executive Mayor for ensuring that townships and informal settlements are no longer treated as afterthoughts but as a centre of progress, pride and potential. Let this be the legacy we leave behind that the marginalised became the heart of our mission.

Madam Speaker, the department of Economic Development has established an investment desk to accelerate and eliminate bureaucratic processes associated with municipal practice, enable opportunities, investments and incentive prospectors. Seamless coordination with other departments and entities to provide investors with research information to explore investment opportunities in the City of Johannesburg.

Madam Speaker, the Mayor in his speech yesterday correctly diagnosed the City, its potential and how the world still views it. It is important for us not to forget that we have inherited a City that gives us an upper hand in hosting world-class events, and it is critical that we remind the citizens of Joburg that in the following week we are hosting the world. From the 14th to the 16th of May, the world will bow to the excellence of the City of Johannesburg as we host the World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM) conference. This will be the first time in the continent. This will be

first time an African country has been entrusted with such a responsibility and rights to host, we should cherish this moment as Johannesburg. The event gives us an opportunity to bolster our local economy, create jobs, empower SMMEs and display our rich diverse culture to the world again, and remind the world of our character and dispel the myth sent around about our country and our City.

Mr Mayor, this is yet again a reminder of what you contributed to your speech about the calibre of senior managers that are there at Joburg Market. Placing the right people in the right positions empowers the people of the country and furthermore gives us an advantage. The fresh produce market after this showcase, will grow from strength to strength and continue to deliver turnover of a billion as they have in previous financial years as well as the current one. In addition to this Executive Mayor, let us use next week as a light mass test of our capacity, to successfully host the G20 and U20 conferences. This is an opportunity to brand ourselves as the City of Johannesburg.

When the Executive Mayor speaks of Southern Farms, he speaks not just of hectares and housing, he speaks of hope rooted in the soil of justice. This is more than just a mega project; it is a monument to inclusion. For decades, the South has carried the weight of underdevelopment, but today, through this bold investment, we are flipping the script. The Southern Farms Mega Project is a beacon of spatial redress, bringing infrastructure, jobs and dignity where there was once neglect. It answers the cries of the people who have waited for too long for their fair share of the city's promises. Those who have never experienced living in a three-room house with 10 family members and kitchen at night is turned to a bedroom, will never have an appreciation of how this development will touch the lives of our people.

Those who have never experienced renting a shack from a landlord that monitors how many plastics you came in with, and how many times do you use the ablution facility, where you kids cannot enjoy playing in the yard. You will never comprehend how will this bring much joy, relief and dignity, and much needed houses for our people. To the Executive Mayor, we say thank you for turning forgotten fields into the foundation of thriving features. This is the Joburg we want. This is the ANC we believe in.

As I conclude, Madam Speaker, in your conclusion yesterday, Executive Mayor, you stated that we can poke holes in your speech, but I choose not to. We choose to follow your theme and build this Johannesburg with you. I would like to make an input in building this City, our core constituency and demographics in the City are the young. Johannesburg, as a migrant Capital, characterized by labour would mean the young occupy the space.

I ask you to be considerate in planning, moving forward, so that we can make a budget for youth empowerment. We get them involved in different industries and we support them intentionally. Mr Mayor, as we went through a critical history lesson of the City and its Mayors. Let me remind you of the words of the late Mayor Jolie Matongo, "All hands are needed on deck, and this is also a time to enable the youth".

Councillor Arnolds M (AIC) addressed Council as follows:

“Madam Speaker, Executive Mayor, Fellow Councillors, and above all, the residents of Johannesburg

I rise today in support of the 2025 State of the City Address as delivered by the Executive Mayor, Councillor S Morero. The address was a clear, confident articulation of where our city stands, where it is going, and how we plan to get there. It showed what responsible, people-centered leadership looks like.

The State of the City Address was not a celebration of government; it was a call to action for society. It was not filled with promises, it was filled with programmes, budgets, and plans already in motion. It reflected the heartbeat of a city recovering its rhythm. It reflected a Government of Local Unity that is stabilizing governance, restoring dignity, and recommitting to service delivery.

We should reflect with pride, on tangible milestones like the Lufhereng Mixed-Use Development. This is not a press release, it is a massive, funded and multi-phase development bringing over 30,000 housing units, with bulk infrastructure, schools, clinics, and economic hubs. This project near Protea Glen is what spatial justice in action looks like delivered through intergovernmental cooperation, and a political will to reverse apartheid spatial planning. This is what transformation looks like, not in theory, but in brick, mortar, and dignity.

Similarly, I welcome the R296 million allocated to electrify informal settlements, reaching communities that have been in the dark, literally and figuratively for far too long. However, there is another story that must be told, a story of rescue, renewal, and revival. I speak of the bold and long-overdue project to revitalize the Inner City. Johannesburg’s urban core is not just the geographical centre of the metro, it is the historic soul of our city. It is where economies were born, cultures collided, and identities were shaped, and for long, it has been left to rot. Now, under the GLU-led administration, that ends.

The Inner City is no longer a cautionary tale. It is becoming a blueprint for inclusive urban renewal. We are not just repairing what was broken, we are transcending what has been called “urbicide,” the deliberate neglect of the urban poor. We are building a mixed-income, multi-functional, proudly African inner city. A city rebuilding from the inside out. A city governed not by egos, but by a Government of Local Unity committed to outcomes over optics.

Let me now turn to what is perhaps the backbone of sustainable governance, revenue collection. We cannot build, light, clean, or protect what we cannot afford to maintain. That is why the AIC fully supports the Executive Mayor’s assertion that the City must collect a minimum of R200 million per day to improve its fiscal position. This is not a thumb-suck figure. It is a non-negotiable threshold for financial stability, for budgeting with certainty, and for protecting service delivery across all regions in our metro.

To achieve this, the City has launched targeted and people-centered interventions Open Days which were not attended by Ward Councillors. These are not about sending threats or turning off taps. They are about rebuilding the relationship between the City and its residents.

Madam Speaker, I must address the elephant in the chamber. Just hours before the Executive Mayor were due to deliver this address, the Democratic Alliance submitted a motion of no confidence, not only in the Mayor but also in you. Let us be frank, this was not an act of accountability, but a desperate attempt to steal the spotlight and derail a moment of progress.

Madam Speaker, I wish to thank the Executive Mayor for his steady leadership, his emphasis on infrastructure-led development, and his refusal to be drawn into petty politicking. His address reminded us that this city is not beyond repair; in fact, it is already being renewed.

In conclusion, the GLU is not perfect, but it is working. It is holding, it is delivering, and it is maturing. The 2025 State of the City Address made that plain for all to see. Now let us stay on the course and keep building the Johannesburg that our people deserve, with lights, with homes, with dignity, with pride.

Thank you”.

Councillor Abdool F (UIM) addressed Council as follows:

“Greetings, Executive Mayor, Madam Speaker, fellow colleagues and residents of the City of Joburg. Rest assured, I will not be punching holes in your speech, I just have observations, suggestions and questions.

We also celebrate the 100-year existence of Afrikaans, as the brown people in South Africa we speak the most Afrikaans. Afrikaans is the third most spoken language in South Africa.

My first observation I am making has more to do with the infrastructure and maintenance, it would have been nice to see our Executive Mayor walking on stairs that are nicely painted and the black and white blocks also looking neat. The JMPD really looked very sloppy, overweight and oversized uniforms, not a representative of the City, which is the actual hub of the rainbow nation. We as Councillors and political parties have a duty to educate and inform our constituencies and residents that when services are eventually rendered in our communities, it is not because of one single Councillor or political party. Indeed, that we, as parties in this building, are actually fighting for it. It is the responsibility of the Ward Councillor to clarify all of that, it is called integrity and as long as we continue with party politics our residents will remain ignorant, critical and non-cooperative.

Let us be cautious of abusing social media, posing for events and services rendered as if we are the ones that execute them, it is called cheap politicking, at least acknowledge the entities responsible. The IDP and CBP meetings which are regurgitating equals to UIFWE and will not be so dramatic and abusive if we as Ward Councillors and PR Councillors can just do our jobs. Which is service delivery, water, electricity, potholes, traffic lights, fixing the pools 100% and not 90%, fixing graveyards 100% and not 90%, fixing everything 100% and not just 90%. I would like that we inquire from the German representatives, how they went about it to create a system which not only provides energy to residents but create an income for residents.

My questions are the following:

The rotation of MMCs and Senior Managers is really a concern for me. How will this be executed? What is the reasoning behind it as there will be no continuity, no accountability and good opportunity for more UIFWEs. If an MMC is not doing their job, they should be removed and replaced. However, there should be a good monitoring tool that must be used. The 83 000 mixed housing in Midrand, I would like to know when and how the City is going to achieve this as it does not have the funds for service delivery. The 40 000 to 50 000 jobs, how will the city create these jobs and what type of jobs is the city referring to? The City does not have proper service delivery funds, therefore, how are we going to execute that?

What I missed was the regulation of recyclers, they keep the City clean, yet they are being disrespected, ostracized, and sometimes abused. The City needs to keep them, they need to keep the City clean, but right now they are seen as a nuisance. Please note they are not necessarily poor, they are in the recycling industry, and it needs to be regulated.

In conclusion, I kindly request that the turnaround plan also be sent to us as Councillors because we are the stakeholders and custodians of the City, who are equally responsible in seeing to it that the vision is executed. In fact, publish it in one of the Joburg based Newspapers for the residents to see because they are supposed to be the beneficiaries of this turnaround plan. Together we can really build a World-Class city with execution, which is done with honesty, integrity, and if that is not done, the SOCA will remain a speech on a beautifully printed booklet and just a city of dreams.

Thank you."

Councillor Mabaso M (IFP) addressed Council as follows:

"When the Executive Mayor paid tribute to the former Executive Mayors, I experienced mixed emotions. I felt the pain of losing colleagues in a short space of time. Political instability continues to hinder the growth and development of our City. Johannesburg has been governed through coalitions for the past nine years. It is time we mature beyond party lines and political ideologies to focus firmly on service delivery and development of our communities. Stability must become a priority if we are to make real and lasting progress.

The Executive Mayor's address rightfully acknowledges the challenges facing the city and provide strategies to address them. The focus on service delivery programs reflects a government that is in touch with the realities on the ground, and I commend you, Executive Mayor, for that.

Executive Mayor, I share your sentiments. We must declare war on criminality. Land and house invasions, electricity theft and the hijacked buildings are bleeding the City of much needed resources. These buildings are often controlled by criminal syndicates that generate illicit income while endangering the lives of innocent residents. It is unacceptable that some individuals own multiple shacks in the informal settlement, living lavish lives while exploiting the poor. We cannot allow our city to be surrendered to criminals. There are already many programs and strategies deployed

in the inner-city and this time we must ensure that they are implemented effectively and focus on other CBDs. The time for half measures is over, these criminal networks are also responsible for harbouring undocumented foreign nationals in these hijacked properties. This is a security, legal and economic threat that we must confront head on. We owe it to our law-abiding citizens to restore safety and dignity in our communities.

Let us reclaim our industrial zone and create an environment that welcomes business investment. Johannesburg is an economic hub, and we must use this to drive employment and revive the economy. We also welcome your efforts, Executive Mayor, for writing to the President for additional support. The Johannesburg infrastructure has been decaying for many years, and we acknowledge that the city's current resources are not enough to resolve all these challenges. On our revenue collection, we must be more robust and tighten all the loopholes; the revenue base is there. We need political will to enforce our strategies effectively. Our capital investment should exceed 10 billion to have a meaningful impact on the development of our communities.

We welcome the announcement of new mega developments in the City of Johannesburg, which will complement the existing projects. Collectively, these developments have the potential to yield more than 200,000 housing opportunities, and this is a significant step in addressing the housing backlog in our City. The Department of Human Services will continue to champion the formalization and upgrading of informal segments. The redevelopment of hostels and the implementation of the low cost social and affordable housing. Proclamation of all townships for the rolling out of the title deeds which will give residents security of tenure, and a sense of ownership and pride will be prioritized.

In conclusion, the state of the city address gave a road map. What remains is the political commitment to implement. Let us all unite and rise above political games and serve the people of Johannesburg with dignity, pride and focus, and with a sense of urgency.

Thank you very much”.

Councillor Harris R (ACDP) addressed Council as follows:

“Madam Speaker, Mr Mayor, MMC’s, Chief Whip, Chair of Chairs, fellow Councillors, residents of Johannesburg, I rise to respond to the SOCA delivered by the Executive Mayor Councillor S Morero.

The SOCA is supposed to give residents a snapshot of where we are as a City and more importantly, a glimpse into the future policy directives and plans for the City. I was hoping it would lift the fog of depression that has settled on the City. It is difficult, sitting on this side of the Chamber, not to be cynical or critical. I will take the EM’s advice and talk to the Joburg we all want:

While we welcome the Priority Housing Development Areas, it is distressing to note that Westbury, Newclare, Bosmont, Eldorado Park and the historic Kliptown are excluded from these areas. The landfill's sites upgrading, and rehabilitation is welcomed. However, Johannesburg should by now have implemented cutting-edge Waste-to-Energy technologies to deal with the growing amounts of municipal solid waste generated. The Integrated Intelligence Operations Centres must be leveraged to fight crime, specifically in the former Coloured areas. This must be in conjunction with the South African Police Services (SAPS). This means there must be a strengthening of the Intergovernmental Relations efforts.

The ACDP will like to see more industrial parks and business centres. These will go a long way to address the massive unemployment, especially amongst the youth. The formalizing of Informal Settlements is needed, but on the other hand, it can be seen as rewarding illegality. Those who respect the law and have not invaded land, despite their desperation, are left on the periphery of service provision. This program highlights the fact that there is no urgency in the provision of housing. It is also an indicator that the City has no Urbanization Plan. Both the SOCA and the IDP documents do not indicate that sports, creative Industries, arts and culture are supported. This is critical to uplift the spirit of Joburg.

Capital Expenditure is only 8.3% of the Budget. This is wholly insufficient for a developmental City with its current infrastructure challenges. Even worse, 42.2% of the Budget is based on the acquisition of loans. The City has no money of its own to invest in Capital projects. This is deeply concerning. The announced Bomb Squad is an insult to the senior management of the City, an admission that they cannot do the work they are paid to do. We suggest that Service Delivery Champions, people already in the service of the City, can be used to pilot this high impact service delivery implementation team. The retention of Institutional knowledge is crucial, and may I suggest a name: Malcolm de Lange, a service delivery champion based at the City Power Hursthill Depot. He epitomises service delivery and his knowledge, integrity and work ethic make him an ideal participant in an internal Bomb Squad.

In noting the SOCA, the ACDP urges the City to embrace innovation, creativity, a developmental mindset and productivity. These elements are key to the success of the Joburg we want to see”.

Councillor Ngwenya F N (ANC) addressed Council as follows:

“Madam Speaker, Councillor N Mthembu; Whip of Council, Councillor N Zungu; Members of the Mayoral Committee; Chair of Chairs, Councillor V Marema; all Section 79 Committee Chairpersons; Councillors of the City of Johannesburg; distinguished guests and the residents of Johannesburg.

Speaker, there is a saying that “dynamites come in small packages” and yesterday reminded us of that. Allow me the honour of greeting the Executive Mayor, Councillor S Morero, our very own dynamite. Though he might not come in the tallest package, but his impact, leadership and presence are undeniably powerful. His stature might be modest but his achievements, vision and commitment to service are larger than life.

Speaker, as we reflect on the Mayor's bold and visionary State of the City Address, I stand in unwavering support of the outlined interventions. This is not just a speech, it is a declaration of intent, a road map of transformation and a call to action for every resident, Councillor and stakeholder in Johannesburg. Below, I unpack the key pillars and explain why they must be embraced with urgency and commitment.

Madam Speaker, allow me to deliver my speech in point form as I believe this will be clear, direct and focused. I choose this approach because unfortunately, many seated across this Chamber came not to contribute constructively, but to criticise without offering viable alternatives. The aim is not to build but to block. We are at a critical moment in the development of this city. The Executive Mayor has laid out a vision grounded in real and tangible progress. Mr Mayor, we hope the opposition will put the residents of Johannesburg first and support the plan as outlined in your speech. Allow me to present the 12 key focus areas highlighted by the mayor, areas that will truly move the city forward:

Restoring law and order through By-Law enforcement and crime prevention. Madam Speaker, the Mayor has placed restoring law and order at the centre of his plan. The city's intention to declare a state of disaster on crime and lawlessness speaks volumes about the urgency of By-Law enforcement. Crime prevention is not just a police issue, it requires active communities, empowered metro officers and consistent court support. By reducing crime rates, people feel safer in their homes, schools, communities and encourages more social interaction and coercion.

The Mayor have made a direct commitment to ensuring that traffic lights work. This may sound like a small detail, but in a city tormented by congestion, accidents and infrastructure decay, functioning traffic signals mean safer roads, faster commutes and restored public confidence. Ensuring that those who are going to work can get there on time and arrive safely. Traffic signal maintenance must be prioritised across the entire City of Johannesburg, and the residents of the City of Johannesburg can attest that the work has begun. We believe that it will be intensified to reach all corners of the city. By introducing stronger enforcement on traffic fines, we restore discipline to our roads. Fines are not just about punishment; they are about accountability. Every fine paid is a lesson in civic duty and the prevention of reckless driving. This contributes directly to our mission of safer and more orderly communities.

Creating opportunities for young people from entrepreneurship hub, supported by the New Chamber of Commerce, to skills development through international partnerships, the mayor has put young people at the centre of his vision. Creating jobs in township economies, launching Smart City programs and building inclusive infrastructure means we are not leaving the youth behind. We are empowering them to lead.

Keeping the streetlights on streetlights are a symbol. They represent safety care and functionality. The mayor's commitment to keeping them on is more about the infrastructure. It is about visibility for women walking at night in the streets of Alexandra, children returning from school in Zakaria Park and business owners protecting their shops in the inner city. We must invest in maintenance teams, energy efficiency, and public reporting tools to make this promise real.

Madam Speaker, there was a time when Johannesburg was not just a city but an experience; families would dress in their finest clothes to visit the inner city, not only to shop but to celebrate life. Places like Carlton Centre, Hillbrow and Joubert Park, these were the hubs of culture and pride. Now, with the piercing upgrades such as Jabulani and the Orange Farm Renewal program, we are not just rebuilding infrastructure, we are reclaiming the soul of our city.

The city's digital public infrastructure plan, highlighted by Artificial Intelligence (AI), is a bold and forward-thinking step. Evidence of a government that is not only reactive, but also proactive. This strategy embraces the power of technology to transform how we deliver services, with AI-driven systems. We can detect service delivery failures like water leaks, power outages, or traffic signal malfunctions before they escalate into a crisis. This means faster response times, fewer disruptions and greater efficiency, but the impact goes beyond just better service delivery. This digital infrastructure will open new avenues for inclusive growth. For example, Smart City dashboards can guide infrastructure involvement in underserved communities. Digital skills development hubs supported by AI tools can equip youth entrepreneurs with the tools to participate in the digital economy. In short, this is not just about technology for its own sake; it is about using innovation to close gaps: service gaps, unlock opportunities and ensure no community is left behind. A smatter city is a more inclusive city, and this plan puts Johannesburg firmly on the path.

It is important for me, or it is important for Councillor de Lange to listen carefully, perhaps yesterday he was not listening to the mayor. In explaining on the war room and the bomb squad approach is how we move from talk to tangible results, turning strategy into execution with urgency and precision. The word room is where planning meets coordination, a central hub where decision makers and stakeholders converge to monitor progress, resolve bottlenecks in real time, and adjust strategies based on live data. It is not about endless meetings; it is about results driven and accountable governance. The bomb squad is the rapid response unit tasked with defusing crisis before they explode. Whether it is a service delivery protest, a burst water pipe, or a power failure, this team steps in with the skills and authority to act immediately, no delay, no red tape.

Let me further take this opportunity or this moment to commend the Executive Mayor for his honesty and courage in confronting the harsh financial realities facing our City. Transparency is the first step towards meaningful change, and the mayor has demonstrated true leadership by refusing to sugarcoat the challenges that we have as a city. The City of Johannesburg's fragile financial position demands not just acknowledgement, but bold reform, we need a complete shift in how we manage and grow resources. This means revamping revenue collection systems, implementing split budgeting so that essential services are protected while strategic long-term projects are planned responsibly. Sustainability begins with accountability; we cannot build a better Johannesburg on a broken financial foundation. Fiscal discipline, transparent governance and efficient service delivery must be our guiding principle.

Councillor Echeozonjoku, of the opposition party, the current administration, unlike the past coalition that was led by the blues, is not just talking about transformation, it is taking tough but necessary steps to secure it, that is leadership worth supporting.

The public and private partnership collaborating for impact, the Mayor acknowledges a wide collection of public private partnership, and we applaud that. Let us build a city with its own people. Let us show unity. Let us model patriotism. Let us protect our infrastructure and respect our spaces.

In closing, Speaker, this is time to build together. The mayor's message is clear, the time for excuses is over. The time for implementation has begun. Let the speech be a call to action, a moment where talk gave way to transformation. Let this be a turning point. We must rise to the call, 2025 and beyond must be the year we see the Joburg that we want to see. Let us not delay. Let's deliver.

I, thank you, Speaker”.

Councillor Cook M (GOOD) addressed Council as follows:

“Madam Speaker, Executive Mayor, fellow Councillors and residents of Johannesburg, as the GOOD Party, we rise today to affirm our commitment to ethical leadership, spatial justice and sustainable, equitable Johannesburg.

Yesterday, the Executive Mayor delivered his State of the City Address, and it was a master class. A master class in political spin, grand visions, ambitious timelines and lofty ideals. But the people of Johannesburg know better, Madam Speaker. They live the truth daily with a city in deep and visible decline, barreling towards oblivion with no end in sight.

However, commend the Mayor on what he got right in his speech yesterday. The mayor is correct when he says the people of Johannesburg legitimately are concerned about the city they call home. It is true our city is in a crisis, and this is no time for empty political theatre. We must now speak the truth, offer solutions and act with urgency.

Madam Speaker, I must just note a concern. Yesterday, we painted a picture of a United GLU who is going to reimagine Johannesburg. However, everyone in this Chamber could see that the GLU is not united. Partners in the GLU did not pitch up or walked across the house during proceedings, while other partners in the GLU sat arms folded, enjoying the perks of being in government while they still behaved like an opposition.

It cannot be that in a united GLU, which has over 190 of the 270 Councillors in this Chamber, the Mayor had to repeat some of his specific SOCA pipe dreams to get mediocre applause from a handful of his own colleagues. Yet, the biggest applause he received yesterday was when he created a dramatic and over-theatrical moment to teach his peers how to send an e-mail.

Madam Speaker, we do commend that there is a commitment to spatial redress and welcome the mayor's targeted investment of 3.3 billion in long neglected communities like Diepsloot, Zandspruit, Orange Farm and Eldorado Park. We also welcome the township economic reforms mentioned by the mayor. He rightly points to the inequality of the Joburg market system when township's traders spend billions with almost no local retention. The GOOD party will support reforms that empower informal traders, local farmers and Township based logistics players. However, there

are far more alarm bells than praises in the speech. The mayor mentioned that international investors are looking at Johannesburg and are attracted by growth. Are they attracted by the growth of the potholes, the growth of service delivery backlogs, the growth of the decay, the growth of their financial instability and debt the City is in.

The Mayor mentioned that drastic times need drastic measures, and that extreme action is needed. As the GOOD party we agree. But after being in the office for eight months, we want to ask the mayor, when will you start? The Mayor also mentioned that last year Joburg was reimagined. The executive must have a very good imagination as according to residents, nothing has changed, and the problems are getting worse. Where is the accountability? The mayor acknowledged that our city is financially unstable, and service backlogs are worsening. But where is the accountability for fiscal collapse? We cannot fix Joburg by repacking the same leadership and expecting different results. We, as the GOOD party, are also concerned about private sector partnerships without guardrails. While we support collaboration, massive private sector investments like Steyn City's 11 and a half billion risk reinforcing inequality if not matched with public interest concerns. Where are the equity clauses? Where are the inclusion targets and where are the public benefit measures?

We are also concerned that there is no clear climate adaptation plan. Johannesburg is not immune to climate shocks. Yet in a 24-page address, there was no mention of climate adaptation or disaster resilience strategy. This is an admission that the GOOD party cannot overlook.

Madam Speaker, the Mayor's proposed bomb squad, while theatrically named, lacks detail, accountability and public oversight. GOOD cannot support the creation of a vaguely defined executive structure that bypasses democratic processes under the guise of urgency.

The framing of migration and declaring war on undocumented migrants risks inflaming xenophobia. Joburg's problems are not caused by the poor, nor by the foreign, nor by the informal, they are caused by corruption, poor planning and political instability. GOOD demand a lawful, humane approach to migration and urban inclusion.

It is also concerning that not once did the speech mention corruption prevention, clean audits or procurement reform at a time when trust in the city is fragile; the silence is deafening. Johannesburg is not short of plans. It is short of implementation, clean governance and short of justice in how resources are distributed.

In closing, Speaker, I note that the Mayor commenced his speech by mentioning each of the democratic mayors of Johannesburg and stating their legacy. Madam Speaker, some of those mayors might be turning in their graves at what has been undone over the last couple of years. I must, however, also caution the Mayor not to become known as the Mayor who can look you in the eye, shake your hand, make plenty of promises, but fail to deliver on them".

Councillor Kunene K (PA) addressed Council as follows:

"Madam Speaker, let me greet you. Let me also recognize the Executive Mayor; the Whip of Council; MMCs, the Whip of the fastest growing political party, and the nine Councillors of Patriotic Alliance.

Madam Speaker, I do agree with the mayor that Johannesburg is going through challenges, and it needs a turnaround strategy. Be that as it may, I do not think that a turnaround strategy should be the rotation of MMCs, but I will leave that for a political discussion outside of this House.

I also think that the Mayor must have erred by saying that he is going to rotate the Senior Managers, Section 56 Managers are appointed by Council, and they have applied for jobs with the requirements, certain credentials, competencies and qualifications. I think maybe that was an error, as the Mayor is not empowered to do so. The Mobility Policy of the City is very clear that when you move people around, they need to have certain competencies.

The Mayor has mentioned, rightfully so, that Eldorado Park needs to be developed as a livable area, however, the people of Eldorado have asked me to raise the following issues about Eldorado:

When the former Premier Mr D Makhura launched the Southern Farms, the launch was in Eldorado. However, when the main launch happened last year for the implementation, it was not launched in Eldorado. They are saying that they have received a memo that the site establishment is going to be launched in Ward 18 in Eldorado, yet the Councillor of Eldorado has not been consulted. They are saying the people of Eldorado have not been allocated housing for the Southern Farms, they have been deliberately excluded.

Madam Speaker, the people of Davidsonville, have complained over the years about the mining dumps that flood their houses whenever it rains and how their pipes get blocked. I visited the area with the Department of Minerals; however, they did not come to the party.

Madam Speaker, the residents of Glenhurst, in Region F, say they are neglected. The flats are dilapidated, their pipes are blocked, and they need some attention from the City. These communities are complaining about how the budget is allocated in a divisive manner. Where a budget will be allocated to Chiawelo but not to Klipspruit. Where a budget will be allocated to Finetown and Meriting but not Ennerdale. Where a budget will be allocated to Kliptown but not Eldorado Park. Where a budget will be allocated to Ivory Park but not Rabie Ridge, and they are calling on us as the Executive to correct this budget allocation.

The speech of the Mayor did not highlight the achievements of the GLU, Councillor Zigebe has captured a few of those achievements. We achieved a lot when we came in 2023. I can list a lot of achievements that we have made as the GLU working together as MMCs and individually, unfortunately, time is against me.

Madam Speaker, let me close by saying success is not final. Failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts. Obstacles are inevitable, but quitting is not. We can never quit. Success is not the absence of problems, it is the ability to deal with them as the GLU, we are dealing with the problems that we have inherited from the DA administration. We are dealing with these problems as we move forward and take the City of Johannesburg forward.

Thank you very much”.

Councillor Nkokou T (PAC) addressed Council as follows:

“Madam Speaker, Councillor N Mthembu; Executive Mayor; Councillor S Morero; Whip of the Council, Councillor N Zungu; Chair of Chairs, Councillor A Marema; all the Chairpersons of Section 79 Committees; Honourable Councillors; City Manager; all officials and most importantly, the residents of City of Johannesburg.

The Pan Africanist Congress of Azania welcomes the Executive Mayor's State of City Address. We appreciate its honesty, its developmental orientation and its accomplishment of both the challenges and potential of this great African City.

The PAC views this address as more than a government report; it is a call to duty. As a liberation movement counts in African unity, self-determination, we support the Mayor's commitment to addressing historical spatial injustice. Opening partnerships and investing in marginalized communities. Projects such as the electrification of informal settlements, Inner City Revitalization and mega housing development in Diepsloot, Southern farms and Lufhereng are not just about service delivery, they are about dignity. They affirm the principles that the land and its benefits must belong to the people. We particularly welcome the investment in youth entrepreneurship, Cultural facilities; and township economic development, but we must be deliberate. These programs must empower African youth to lead in innovation, gender transformation and ownership, not just participate.

Madam Speaker, on the question of rotational political leadership and management. Let us be clear, rotation is not disruption, it is a democracy in motion. In a government of local unity, rotation is an expression of shared power, shared responsibility and shared accountability. It ensures that governments do not become a preserve for one party or personality, but a reflection of collective will. We support the Executive Mayor's proposal to rotate MMCs and Senior Managers. This must not be reduced to opportunistic calculus; it must be guided by performance; ethics and they need to break stagnation. Strategic rotation injects fresh ideas and energy, undermines entrenched patronage networks, enhances representativity and upholds the principle of negotiated cooperation. In our African tradition, leadership is collective and rotational. We get that in a Lekgotla, not to entrench authority but to share, that is how we build legitimacy and resilience. To those who fear rotation we say, democracy must evolve and if we are to serve the people of Johannesburg, not just some, then this rotation must be embraced, not resisted.

In closing, the PAC recommits itself to the building of Johannesburg that is safe and African, in both form and substance. Let us be a City where our children are safe, our cultures are celebrated, and no one is left behind. Let Johannesburg not only reimagine itself but reclaim its soul.

I am going to make an announcement. It comes with responsibilities of being in leadership. It also comes with the responsibility if you are serious and want to build the City, the country and the continent.

Madam Speaker, fellow Councillors, with your indulgence, I will make a brief announcement separate from my response to the Mayor's address. Yesterday, the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, PAC, had an honour to facilitate a historic meeting between the African National Congress and Afrikaner leadership network. It was a moment of frank and constructive engagement, reminding us of all of the need for inclusive dialogue in building a united South Africa. In the same spirit, I wish to extend my warm congratulations as the Afrikaans language makes its contemporary 100 years of official recognition. Let it be known in Johannesburg, the cultural identity of Afrikaners, like of any other group, is not under threat. It is our collective duty to ensure that all cultures can flourish side by side with mutual respect and dignity. As the MMC for Community Development, my office remains open and accessible to the Afrikaner community and to every other culture and linguistic group in our city. Johannesburg is a home to all. Let us rebuild together.

IZWE LETHU”.

Councillor Mokome J (COPE) addressed Council as follows:

“Thank you, Madam Speaker, and good day. Honourable Executive Mayor; Honourable Whip of Council; Members of the Mayoral Committee; Chair of Chairs and Section 79 Chairpersons; honourable Councillors; City Manager and the administration; residents of Johannesburg; guests in Gallery; ladies and gentlemen, good day.

Madam Speaker, the doyen of sports administrators, former sports administrator, Donald Daniel Dhliwayo has passed on a week ago and Orlando Pirates has therefore gained an ancestor. May his soul rest in peace.

Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Congress of the People to respond to the state of the city address. The Johannesburg we all want and Madam Speaker, from that end, we take an approach through the eyes of sports, recreation, arts and culture within the City of Joburg. Which is in some other instances, is a misnomer called Community Development.

In essence, as the residents of Joburg, we must get value from all our sports amenities. The demise of Moroka Swallows Football Club has rendered Dobsonville Stadium a white elephant. Madam Speaker, communities within Dobsonville and neighbouring areas, especially the schools, when they must book that venue for their sports activities, they have been charged R20,000 for the day. This kind of approach by Stadium Management South Africa is going to throttle and frustrate sports development within Johannesburg. Indeed, Madam Speaker, we take a cue which says Sports Management South Africa, the contract that we have with them is now coming into sharp focus. This creates another problem also, because within Dobsonville Stadium there is also Dobsonville swimming pool, which also is now becoming a problem. A liability in the sense that maintenance is not being done and that is now open to vandalism.

Madam Speaker, further on sports, recreation, arts and culture is the heartbeat of our social life. Whether we are attending funerals during weekends, we are in parties, we are in Taverns, Madam Speaker, we must be seen to be in an African world class city. Citing an example, once again, the Arthur Ash Tennis Court in White City is under threat because of vandalism. A library is closed in Orange Farm Ward 4, Region G, because of bureaucracy. There is an altercation, for lack of a better word, between the city of Joburg and the provincial authority running libraries. And that, once again, Madam Speaker, becomes a problem with security.

Madam Speaker, we need to establish a dedicated bid and hosting committee to hold events and leveraging opportunities for growth and development within the City of Johannesburg. We lost to host the Nedbank Cup recently, which was won by Durban and indeed in that regard, this is a Multi-million Rand spinning event, which the City of Joburg cannot afford to lose. Madam Speaker, the Congress of the people affirms and supports the State of the City Address as presented by the Mayor.

Thank you, Madam Speaker”.

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

“Madam Speaker, honourable Executive Mayor, esteem members of Council, colleagues, fellow residents and distinguished guests, Salaam Alaikum and peace be upon you all.

Today, I am rising as a representative of Al Jamaah party to engage in this important democratic tradition of reflecting of the state of our city. Not in the spirit of division of partisanship, but with a sincere hope that our collective voices will contribute to a more inclusive, just and accountable Johannesburg.

Let us first commend the honourable Executive Mayor for articulating a vision for winning city. For outlining several progressive initiatives aimed at tackling long standing service delivery challenges. We recognise the complexity of the challenges facing the city and the commitment required to address them. However, it is our concern and responsibility to bring that to light, areas where communities feel unseen, undeserved and excluded from this vision of progress. The absence of Lenasia in the city's strategic narrative, is with respectful concern that we note that the complete absence of Lenasia in the Mayor's 2025 state of the city address. Not a single reference was made to this historically significant and economically vital community situated in the Southern parts of Johannesburg.

Lenasia is not a peripheral and marginal suburb, it is a well-established vibrant area that contributes meaningfully to the city's social economic ecosystem, its residents are tax paying citizens, active voters and engaged stakeholders in the life of the city. Yet the exclusion from the mayoral address has been received with dismay and disappointment.

This omission is not merely symbolic. It reflects a deeper systematic issue when areas like Lenasia are consistently left out of planning discussions, investment priorities and infrastructure upgrades. It sends a message that some communities are less integral to the city's future than others. This perception undermines a social cohesion and trust we need to build a truly united Johannesburg. Lenasia is a catalyst for the Southern

Corridor development. We wish to respectfully remind the executive that Lenasia has long been microcosm and resilience in innovation and coexistence. The communities' home to small and medium enterprises, IT, logistics firms, faith-based organizations and informal traders. The area serves as a vital connector between various townships, emerging markets in the South. Yet, the challenges faced this community are both persistent and deeply discouraging.

We have a problem with road infrastructure, numerous streets are marred by potholes, many of which are repaired by residents themselves without formal support or follow up from municipal services. Water infrastructure, burst pipes and leaks often go unrepaired for weeks, causing both hazards and disruptions to daily life. Street lighting and safety; many areas are left in prolonged darkness due to the nonfunctional streetlights increasing vulnerability to crime. Ageing utility networks, outdated sewer, electrical systems placed limitations on both residential life and business operations, discouraging growth to investment. These are not isolated complaints. They are indicators of broader systematic failure to maintain equitable standards of service delivery. Despite our concerns, we wish to express appreciation for several initiatives mentioned in the Mayor's speech. Invest in underserved communities, we applaud the focus on areas like Orange Farm, Zandspruit and surroundings, which reflects a commitment to social equality, equity and development redress. These values resonate deeply with our Islamic principles of justice, inclusion and dignity for all.

Johannesburg market reform: The intention to lower operational costs for township traders through market reform is commendable. We suggest, however, that this intervention be extended to include the South markets, places like Lenasia and surroundings, Ennerdale, Eldorado Park and so forth, and enabling broader geographic impact.

Digital infrastructure and innovation; the emphasis of using artificial intelligence for the leak detection on expanding a digital public infrastructure is forward thinking, however, we advise technological advances to be implemented alongside Community education and assessment programmes. Without bringing the digital divide innovation will remain concentrated exclusive.

In conclusion, let us move forward together, guided by justice, informed by compassion and committed to equality.

Al Jama-ah remains willingly a willing partner in building a Johannesburg that works for all its residents, regardless of geography, class or background. We thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important conversation.

Thank you".

Councillor Modukanene L C (ActionSA) addressed Council as follows:

"Madam Speaker, Councillor N Mthembu; Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Councillor S Morero; Whip of Council, Councillor Zungu; Members of the Mayoral Committee; Chairpersons of Section 79 Oversight Committees; the Fabulous 44; members of the Media; distinguished guests; residents of the City of Johannesburg; ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

The Mayor asked us to represent the views of the people and to tell what kind of Johannesburg we want to see. Well, the people responded and in true Joburg style, they did not mince their words. They said it was more like a state of the excuses address. They also said if you are expecting bold plans, measurable outcomes or even a glimpse of urgency from the Mayor's state of the city address, you clearly have not been paying attention to ANC's performance arts. Because what we got instead was a master class in dodging accountability, sugar coating failure and reciting problems as if they only appeared yesterday.

Today we rise not just to respond to Mayor Dada Morero state of the city address, but to expose the gaping chasm between words and action, between image and reality, between spin and service. Mayor Morero's 2025 address was long on nostalgia, short on substance, kind of like reading an old love letter from someone who ghosted you. It painted a picture of optimism that is simply not recognizable to the people who live in Johannesburg 7 regions. While the Mayor celebrated plans and visions, communities across the city continue to suffer without water, without safety and increasingly without hope.

Let us begin with the mayor's own acceptance speech, where he promised decisive leadership, reliable service delivery, and a Johannesburg that works for all. Nearly a year later, that promise rings hollow, like a vuvuzela with no air. He now delivers an address full of high-level targets and bureaucratic jargon, but no accountability for the decaying infrastructure, the mushrooming informal settlements and the daily indignity suffered by residents. Compare this to Mayor Gwamanda's 2024 address, while also flawed, Council Gwamanda at least acknowledged the failures in infrastructure and the structural issues with power outages. He called for urgent reform. Mayor Morero, by contrast, downplayed these issues and attributed them to external forces, as if the water crisis was a surprise guest at his own party.

Now, let us examine ActionSA's position. Our pre state of the city address was not a wish list, it was an intervention. Think of it as the political version of tough love. We highlighted the silent cries of communities from Diepsloot decades long darkness; to Orange Farm's daily water queues; to abandoned projects in Region D, while millions were spent and nothing delivered, not even a "Thank You" sign. What did the Mayor say about this? Nothing.

Speaker, I was sent to deliver a message. People of Alex say they are not happy with the Mayor. There was no mention of Alexandra, one of the most neglected and marginalized communities in Johannesburg. The Alexandra Renewal project, once a beacon of hope, has collapsed under mismanagement. This is not an oversight, it is betrayal, and at that point it feels personal.

The Mayor also conveniently ignores the electricity surcharge, a burden placed on residents already battling inflation. In our communities, this is not just an inconvenience, it is a crisis. ActionSA has called for the surcharge to be scrapped, yet the Mayor offered no relief.

Let us talk infrastructure; Johannesburg faces a 300 billion backlog, yet the Mayor's speech offered no plan to fund or implement large scale renewal. Water remains at 46%, roads are crumbling, waste is uncollected, and still we are told to clap for progress, at this rate, even clapping is starting to sound sarcastic.

What does ActionSA offer instead?

- *Solar streetlights in high crime zones, not in five years, but now.*
- *Community boreholes in informal settlements like Orange Farm.*
- *Refurbished clinics and multipurpose centres.*
- *Local job creations with every infrastructure project.*
- *A crackdown on cadre deployment and corrupt tenders, starting with full transparency.*

Where the Mayor talks of hope, we talk of hiring reclaimers to clean up Meadowlands and Region F. Where the ANC executive speaks of capacity, we talk of visible law enforcement to tackle hijacked buildings and unsafe places. We also note how the mayor fails to propose a single meaningful reform to combat urban decay, even as our city slides further into dysfunction. The people of Johannesburg deserve better than traffic lights that do not work, and clinics that do not open. Although at this point at least, the traffic lights are consistent in one thing not working.

Action SA has cautioned the mayor about recycling his executive. However, the mayor believes that rotating the executive is the answer to the city's many problems, as if musical chairs were magically turned incompetence into excellence. We would like to remind the mayor that both Lufhereng Mixed-Use Development and the Southern Farm Mega project cannot be used as a benchmark for the City of Johannesburg. The city must devise aggressive ways of collecting revenue as opposed to the current posture, which gives more power to those who opt to disregard the rule of law. Action SA demands that the city adopt an aggressive approach in dealing with those who are held bent on turning Johannesburg into a slum lord playground. The only way to turn around Johannesburg is through bringing back the rule of law.

ActionSA, however, welcomes some of the pronouncements by the mayor. Which includes declaring war against illegal immigrants and illegal miners, we are going to work with you. We are going to work in front of you, behind you and besides you. ActionSA strongly believes that the insourcing of security guards and cleaners must also take centre stage in this administration. If you are to restore dignity to our officers and cleaners, who are often the first to arrive and the last to be appreciated. We partially welcome the declaring of the state of disaster to fight illegality in the City of Johannesburg, whether it is a bomb squad or war room, if we don't change our attitude, we will never turn the city around.

The Mayor's speech was an odd to aspiration, not a blueprint for recovery. It was padded with political nostalgia, but the absence of urgency was like a glossy brochure advertising a dream that is still waiting for municipal approval. Johannesburg is not broken for lack of funding. It is broken because of a lack of leadership and that is why, Madam Speaker, we say the time for talking is over, ActionSA delivers. We do not ask to be believed. We ask to be judged by our work and track record and our vision.

Madam Speaker, the Mayor yesterday downplayed the legacy left by our President, Mr Mashaba. He said that Mr Mashaba is an accidental Mayor who tries to clean the City of Johannesburg. Well, Mr. Mayor, Mr Mashaba reclaimed hijacked buildings and turned them into affordable housing. Mr Mashaba introduced "BUYA MTHETHO". Mr Mashaba did not try to clean the city, he actually was cleaning the city.

Mayor, just to make sure that in future you do not forget our president's legacies, the next time you go out for an operation that resembles BUYA MTHETHO, we will go out and celebrate it and call it the Herman Mashaba Day. The next time there is a cleaning campaign around the City, we will go out and celebrate and call it a Herman Mashaba day.

I thank you, Speaker”.

Councillor Echeozonjoku B (DA) addressed Council as follows:

“Thank you, Madam Speaker, Executive Mayor, honourable Councillors and most importantly, the residents of Johannesburg.

The Democratic Alliance in the City of Johannesburg notes the state of the city address delivered by the Executive Mayor yesterday, Councillor S Morero. The Mayor said we must not poke holes in his speech. Well, Mr Mayor, we tried very hard, however, you left us no option but to raise serious concerns.

Madam Speaker, we must express our profound concern at the ongoing failure of governance, the lack of transparency and the questionable administrative practices that continue to undermine the city's ability to deliver quality services to our residents.

Madam Speaker, we know that yesterday, the Mayor said we should not poke holes in his speech. The Mayor's speech, unfortunately, has no tangible solutions. It is only pie in the sky promises and it shows that he is completely out of touch with the city that he leads. What we heard yesterday was not a reflection of the realities facing our communities. It was a speech filled with lofty ambitions, lacking substance, accountability and constitutional integrity. We are deeply troubled, Madam Speaker, by several pressing issues that were ignored or deliberately glossed over in the Mayor's address.

Madam Speaker, let me start with the fact that the mayor announced the reshuffling of his cabinet. Well, that's his prerogative, however, Madam Speaker, his reshuffling of Senior officials in line with the Municipal Systems Act and the Constitution. The mayor has also not informed us how he intends to do this. Perhaps, Madam Speaker, the mayor must enlighten this House on how he intends to do this without ending up in court.

The Executive Mayor also needs to advise this house the terms of reference for the presidential working group and why these terms of reference had not been presented to this Council, which is the highest decision-making body in this municipality. This omission seriously questions the legitimacy and the accountability of the presidential working group and the role of Councillors regarding our ability to do oversight. I want to caution the mayor, Madam Speaker, this sets a very dangerous precedent where critical initiatives are run parallel to Council oversight.

The bigger concern for us is the mayor's so-called turnaround strategy. This is widely publicized as a silver bullet to Johannesburg's challenges. This strategy, Madam Speaker, had not been presented to this Council for scrutiny. We don't know what the details is and how do we as Councillors do oversight over this turnaround strategy.

This is our mandate, it is our Constitutional mandate to do oversight over anything that is presented or implemented in the City of Johannesburg.

Madam Speaker, the bigger concern for us as well is that we are aware that the mayor did not have the decency to consult his own Mayoral Committee, or the Senior Management appointed by Council. Let me remind the Mayor, both the executive and the legislative authority of this city is vested in this municipal council in terms of section 151(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. This is not just unacceptable, it is undemocratic, it robs Councillors and residents of the opportunity to engage with, interrogate and improve the proposed way forward.

Madam Speaker, the Executive Mayor said nothing about progress on the recruitment of a city manager that is full time. This Council need an urgent progress report on that matter. What is more alarming, is the mayor's publicity stunt yesterday. Where he forwarded the strategy directly to the President and Councillors have not even had sight of this. It can't be correct. This action not only undermines political protocol, but it also undermines the authority of Council. We are left to ask Madam Speaker and Mr. Mayor, is the city under administration? And if so, why are we left behind in the dark as Councillors?

Madam Speaker, withholding documents like the presidential working groups, terms of reference, and the turnaround strategy from Council violates the principle of transparency, accountability and democratic practice. The DA demands immediate clarity, Madam Speaker, and Mr. Mayor. The residents of the City must know, they have the right, in fact, to know who is governing them and how is the president governing directly, or is this executive governing them? The fact that the Executive Mayor failed to bring this turnaround strategy to Council like he has done with the city powers turnaround strategy and the Joburg Water turnaround strategy is very concerning.

While the mayor is talking about a state of disaster and the war on potholes, the Mayor said nothing about what he will do about the grants we keep losing, which go back to the National Treasury. Just this past week, we heard in the news report that Reya Vaya lost R300 million that was returned to the Treasury. If this money was spent on service delivery, you would not need to declare a state of disaster. This is a clear lack of direction and incompetence, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the Mayor mentioned nothing about the details of how they will tackle the constant bursts and vandalism of power and water infrastructure across the city. What happened to the infrastructure Protection unit, Madam Speaker and Mr. Mayor, why discard plans because you are not the ones who initiated, you will get the credit for it anyway.

Madam Speaker, it will be an injustice to our residents if we do not raise serious concerns about the mayor's questionable proposals, such as declaring a state of disaster, and the so-called Bomb Squad. When were these introduced to Council Mr. Mayor? Through you, Madam Speaker, this was supposed to have come to Council because we cannot have public relations theatre in serious policy. What happened to

the intergovernmental relations that should exist already? Had there been a complete breakdown between the municipality and other spheres of government? Like the Provincial government and we are not aware of what is going on. The mayor talks about a state of disaster on crime, violence and enforcement.

Madam Speaker, the mayor also mentioned the reinstatement of the IOC. We welcome this. But we want to ask, there was an IOC for quite some time, what happened to it? And while the mayor talks about long term strategies, residents are facing daily service delivery failures, water shortages, prolonged power outages and collectors' waste, crumbling roads and failing infrastructure.

Madam Speaker, let me just go through it bit by bit. The Mayor said nothing tangible about the current crisis with electricity across the City and immediate interventions. Residents had 12 to 15 days of outages, in some cases, Councillors are completely ignored by entities like City Power. The reality is that there is no relief for residents struggling with constant outages. I can only imagine the plight of Councillors across the city, yet the mayor has only mentioned relief for industrial customers. What an absolute disgrace that the residential customers are not even considered here. There is no relief for residents on the proposed tariff increases on electricity or water. We have proposals and we are happy to provide them to you.

Madam Speaker, a high Solar Mast is not only needed in informal settlements, but it will also assist on main roads that are prone to vandalism. Please consider this high solar mast for main roads that are prone to vandalism. Madam Speaker, former mayor Gwamanda told us about 5000 cameras. What happened to all these cameras that he spoke about? Or do the cameras disappear every time there is a new Mayor? What happened to the money that was spent to get these cameras? What happened to customers who pay their rates and not get services? What relief are they getting for staying in the darkness and driving in a war zone called Johannesburg?

Madam Speaker, we are ready to provide proposals as we have always done but the mayor seems to be only an ANC mayor and not a mayor for all residents of Johannesburg. Madam Speaker, Johannesburg is not a stage for political theatrics, or one man shows, it is a city in crisis. Our residents deserve solutions, not slogans. They deserve governance, not guesswork, and they deserve representation, not exclusion.

On water and sewage, Madam Speaker; the Mayor mentioned nothing about reservoirs, he promised to give us an update by February 2025. He mentioned new ones, we heard that, but we want to know what happened to all those reservoirs he said he would give us an update on. In some areas, residents are perpetually relying on water tankers with little end in sight. This is a basic human right. The Minister of Water and Sanitation had been with the mayor in Johannesburg and had told us about the infrastructure grants that are available to municipalities. What stops the city from providing a clear plan to the Ministry for reservoirs like Hurst Hill reservoir that need an urgent upgrade and account for it properly? Is it because the city refuses to be transparent to account once the money has come to the city?

Madam Speaker, raw sewage is flooding our roads. Just this morning, I had a call from Mr Levine, in Waverly. Who had reported sewer leaks for the third time with no help, asking you, Mr. Mayor, to come and stand in the sewage in his yard so you can see what he is going through and what he experiences on a week basis. Madam Speaker, it is unfortunate that the mayor had said nothing about dealing with the sewage crisis that adds to the health hazard and as I said, it is a human rights violation as well.

Madam Speaker, a DA government will ease the water burden for Joburg residents and provide detailed, clear plans to the Ministry of Water and Sanitation to unlock these grants. It adhere to the conditions of the grant, and report transparently to Council and to the relevant sphere of government. I would suggest the mayor engage us on that so we can discuss it.

The mayor talked about the electrification of informal settlements. It is a noble idea, Madam Speaker, but let us call a spade a spade. I am sure Councillor Mangena, from Ward 114, will agree with me, and as the mayor has alluded to in previous media comments, informal settlements have lots of undocumented and illegal immigrants. Before electrifying informal settlements, I would suggest, Mr Mayor, and this is part of the solutions you asked us for. I would suggest you work with the Minister of Home Affairs, Minister Leon Schreiber, to enforce the laws of our country and ensure that, with the electrification, comes accountability, so that the city does not lose more. Madam Speaker, how do you electrify informal settlements without formalizing them first to ensure that the city does not lose revenue?

Madam Speaker, the mayor does not need a state of disaster to fix potholes, he needs a clear, rapid response plan. Regular scheduled maintenance of our roads, like what is being done in Midvaal under Mayor Peter Teixeira, and the City of Cape Town under Mayor Jordan Hill Lewis.

Hijacked buildings, Madam Speaker. Every State of the City Address the issue of hijacked buildings are mentioned and it is an ad hoc approach. An ad hoc approach, Madam Speaker, will not help us. For as long as you only see the MMC of Public Safety raiding buildings, we are going nowhere. The silo approach to the city will cost us dearly. Madam Speaker, there have been reports of illegal immigrants being part of hijacking buildings, a silo approach will not help us. I would encourage the Executive Mayor to reach out once again to the Minister of Home Affairs, the Minister of Police and the Minister of Public Works, because this matter will never get fixed unless there are different spheres of government involved.

Madam Speaker, there are recommendations that have never been implemented and the Mayor have no plan to hold officials accountable. There is also no plan to hold officials accountable for the loss of revenue from JPC, from buildings that are either not maintained or left to decay, but no clear plan either. Madam Speaker, it is a disgrace that Councillors have had to hear in the media that there was an instruction that revenue generated by JPC for outdoor advertising must now go into a service provider account with an alleged 25% tariff. When was that approved by Council, Madam Speaker? What process was followed to appoint these lawyers and how is it

accounted for in this Council? The Democratic Alliance rejects this waste of residents' money on tariffs, it lacks transparency. The city has a bank account, money should go into the city bank account and the 25% wasted on tariffs could rather be redirected to fix water pipes, fixed potholes and ensure working traffic lights, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the city does not have a revenue collection problem, the city has a governance and expenditure problem. Madam Speaker, the DA is very clear, we are committed to building a city that works. One where services are rendered, infrastructure is maintained and where governance is clean, transparent and accountable to the people we serve. That is why, Madam Speaker, we are once again proposing solutions because the DA had proven where we govern, we govern better.

Madam Speaker, the lack of a clear homeless shelter and a framework around it is extremely problematic, which leads to illegal invasion of public open spaces. Instead of allowing the city immovable assets, properties to stand empty decay and or get illegally occupied, repurpose some of these buildings as skill centres and ensure that there is at least one shelter per region. Cape Town not only has a record number of homeless shelters, but also safe spaces that provide dignity to the homeless. Repurpose one city owned property per region, that is a suggestion you can take or leave. Repurpose one city owned property per region, bringing professionals, work with the private sector and give dignity to our people.

In the revenue, Madam Speaker, I agree, the Mayor is correct. There must be a collection; everybody must pay their bills. The mayor failed to talk about the city losing revenue because by laws are not enforced. The mayor fails to tell us how much money JPC generates from outdoor advertising and from the city's immovable assets managed by JPC, which can bolster service delivery.

Madam Speaker, Executive Mayor, said nothing about the indigent register, an indigent register audit is a must. I would suggest in the next 90 days, Regional open days which is needed, so you can verify which people are not registered who should be registered and should benefit from the city expanded social package?

Municipal entities, Madam Speaker; I would like to ask the Executive Mayor how many of these entities generate money? And how many of them are running at a profit or a loss? Had the city ever done an analysis of the income generated from entities like the Joburg Property Company, Joburg Tourism Company? And are these reports that are coming to Council a true reflection? Madam Speaker, the DA would advise the mayor to go back, reflect, engage all political parties in this Council. He is reminded that each councillor here is elected by residents in the City of Johannesburg, we did not elect ourselves. All residents matter and we are all here to serve the residents of this great city. We are not here for slogans.

Madam Speaker, service delivery will only be bolstered if the right people are in the right positions to implement what needs to be done to avoid loss of lives, fight corruption and uphold the rule of law. All these concerns raised Madam Speaker, the governance concerns, which will hamper service delivery. The lack of acknowledging all the political parties' contribution shows that you are, indeed, Mr Mayor, not suitable to serve as the Executive Mayor of the economic hub of the country. That is why we are going to bring a motion of no confidence in this House.

In closing, Madam Speaker, let me be absolutely clear, the Democratic Alliance is not intimidated, we believe in the Constitution and the rule of law. We will not hesitate to take any matter that is unlawful, like the VIP protection without threat risk analysis, and unlawful appointments done in this House. We will take it to court, and we are not scared.

I want to use this opportunity to tell the residents of Johannesburg that this is your City. You are not mere bystanders. Hold the City accountable; submit PAIA requests, and demand to know how your money is being spent and in 2026, vote for the Democratic alliance.

I thank you”.

Councillor Mkasi G (EFF) addressed Council as follows:

“Thank you very much, Speaker. Let me firstly acknowledge the caucus leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters; the Whip of Council; fellow Councillors; members of the media and most importantly, City of Johannesburg residents.

Speaker, I think we need to clarify this before we can proceed with our debate. That the government of local unity is doing very well. The opposition must never get confused; we are still intact. Self-criticism is part of self-love.

Executive mayor, we could not help but notice your interest in Orlando Pirates. It is fantastic to see such passion for our local teams, however, let us not forget that we have two iconic clubs in Johannesburg, both the Orlando Pirates and Kaizer Chiefs. Each team symbolizes the unique spirit and culture of different communities that make our city vibrant and diverse. By celebrating 1 without mentioning the other, we risk sending an unintended message. Our leadership should express inclusivity and unity, embracing the rich wall hanging of our city’s sports heritage. Let us celebrate both teams and the amazing spirit they bring to the Johannesburg speaker.

Speaker, we are tempted to agree with the Executive Mayor regarding the accidental mayor. The accidental mayor was initially labeled as the EFF mayor, solely because he was implementing motions put forth by the Economic Freedom Fighters. Such as insourcing of security guards and the motion to reclaim hijacked buildings. The EFF is known for its pro-poor policies. Speaker, since the accidental mayor turned green, he has never achieved anything tangible that he can claim as his own. It is the Economic Freedom Fighters that must be acknowledged for the progress made during their tenure.

Speaker, I rise this afternoon not just as a Councillor, but as a voice of accountability. Representing the working class, the unemployed youth who are displaced, the shack dwellers, the struggling business owners, and the forgotten poor people of this city. Speaker, for those who live in reality are violently disconnected from the promises dressed in the ribbon cutting ceremonies and media briefings. We listened to the Executive Mayor, state of the city address, which was well written, and it was hopeful. There is no need for concept and what people want, the citizens of Johannesburg have told us what they want, they want to be safe, land, houses, a clean city, water and electricity. Most importantly, Speaker, they want jobs and more jobs.

The Executive Mayor, indeed, we need to elevate the By-Law enforcement. The Department of Public Safety, through this collective of the GLU, managed to stabilize the department. By the appointment of the Chief of Police and the By-Law Director, the appointment of the Director for the Technical Unit is in advanced stages. There are a lot of By-Laws issues, and we are going to sort them out.

We are aware of the crimes in Eldorado Park, Westbury, Orange Farm, Diepsloot and many other areas. Crime and drugs run rampant, gunshots are more common than police patrols, women and children fear their own neighbourhoods. We must ensure that we have more boots on the ground and increase the budget for public safety.

Madam Speaker, allow me to address the glaring omission in the Executive Mayor's address. Executive Mayor, let us again elevate the gains that have been achieved in Health and Social Development. In this period under review, the department is responsible for Primary Health clinics, for sheltering the homeless, for fighting gender-based violence, for caring for the vulnerable children and elder citizens. New clinics have been opened; the poor have been receiving food relief packages. There is more that still needs to be done, let us fast track the implementation of e-Health.

The pothole patrol is welcomed and noted but let us start up the Asphalt plant and insource our people. Note that the residents of Freedom Park, Rosettenville and Kliptown continue to swerve for survival on the roads that resemble a minefield. Pikitup trucks are collapsing while the street overflows with waste. Rubbish is becoming part of the urban landscape, let us clean our city, Executive Mayor.

Completion of mega projects such as Lufhereng, Lawley, Zandspruit, Lehae and Vlakfontein. Our people have been waiting for houses for two decades, many of those mega projects exist only on PowerPoint slides, backyard dwellers and informal settlement continue to grow as the state's promises collapse.

Joburg Water's investment efforts are welcome, but water outages remain a regular occurrence. In Orange Farm, taps are dry; in Ivory Park, sewage flows freely; in Diepsloot sanitation there is a health crisis. Residents are expected to pay for services they don't receive and when the poorest of the poor protest, they are labeled as unruly.

On electricity, the city boasts about moving away from Eskom, yet large parts of Johannesburg go days without power. Substations are outdated; cable theft is rampant and illegal connection persist. Not because people choose them, but because they have no alternative, City Power is failing to electrify the most vulnerable.

The speech touched on youth and township economies, but there was no mention of land access for township entrepreneurs. No real budget for youth cooperatives and no implementation of procurement targeted to support the township owned businesses. The so-called Township economy remains an academic slogan without support, without infrastructure, without impact. You reference the Joburg Market 1 billion monthly turnover, yet 90% of that money leaves the township economy and flows to large commercial white-owned farms. That money, the Executive Mayor, must be given to our people. There is no support for local growers, nor land allocated for

Township farmers and no access to financing. You mentioned youth entrepreneurship and digital services but where are the digital tools in Alexandra? Where are the business hubs in Riverlea? Where is the land for micro farming in Soweto? Our youth are being asked to start businesses in shacks with no electricity, no Wi-Fi and no hope.

The Mayor acknowledged the city's financial instability, and yet he continues to propose flashy projects like an international summit without accountability. There is a talk about selling the City's debtors' book but no talk about reducing unnecessary consultancy fees or eliminating bloated administrative structures. The so-called Bomb Squad is not necessary, Executive Mayor, Johannesburg needs clean governance, functioning system and ethical leadership. What was presented is not a strategy. Let us do a comprehensive audit of all housing and infrastructure projects, particularly those incomplete or abandoned. Let us be transparent in the electrification of informal settlements with detailed plans, contractors and deadlines. Let us support the Township economies, starting with land allocation, tool provision and procurement quarters for small businesses.

We call for an end to unqualified political appointments and immediate review of all municipal entities that have become a haven for patronage and mediocrity. This is not just about criticism; it is about the truth. The people of Johannesburg are not experiencing a world class African City; they are experiencing a collapsing city held together by political spin and broken promises. Let us not sugar coat reality. Let us not romanticize failure. Let us tell the truth, even if it makes the administration uncomfortable, because our people are not dying from lack of optimism. They are dying from a lack of service delivery. Speaker, I, thank you."

Councillor Radebe TT (ANC) addressed Council as follows:

"Greetings to the Speaker; the Executive Mayor, Councillor S Morero; our Mayoral Committee; the Whip of Council, Councillor Zungu; our Chair of Chairs, Council Marema; fellow Councillors, and most importantly the residents of Johannesburg.

Madam Speaker, maybe before I go deep into the speech, you know, I thought today we are coming to get a comprehensive debate that was going to give us direction and solutions that was going to be clear in terms of us rebuilding a city that is workable. Instead we are getting more and more prophets of doom. Those who are just giving us a bleak future, who are taking Johannesburg backwards. This reminds me of something that was once said by Paul Kruger; in the early beginnings of this City, we had a gold rush and a big boom. Paul Kruger dismissed the city as just a mere mining town that will not survive beyond the gold rush. More than 150 years later, the city's still here. This is an indication that this is a city with resilience. This is a city that keeps on fighting, and it will always bounce back.

Madam Speaker, I rise to give a vote of confidence to the state of the city address delivered by the Executive Mayor. But I also rise to affirm that the city of former Mayors like Moerane, Matongo and Makhubo will once again take its rightful place in the galaxy of great cities of the world. The Executive Mayor gave us a speech that

does not only account for the past but also creates a clear, courageous vision for a city in recovery. A city that has known its collapse and now it chooses to rise.

Johannesburg is not merely bouncing back, but it is rebuilding, repurposing and reclaiming its future.

Speaker, at the heart of the address is a turnaround strategy that recognizes the scale of our crisis, but also response with a scale worthy ambition. It is about rebuilding governance, capacity, restoring service delivery, repairing broken infrastructure and reigniting the growth. It is not a wishful plan, as some are saying, but it is a practical plan that is centred around cleaning up governance, attracting investments, building fiscal credibility and reigniting economic engines that have stalled for some time, and we all know what caused the stall.

Madam Speaker, we are witnessing, perhaps, for the first time in a long time, a city administration that is not only working, but that is fighting to make Johannesburg work. The Executive Mayor's message was clear; investment will not come to a city that cannot govern itself. That is the reason why a cleanup, and rebuilding goes hand in hand with economic recovery. Across Johannesburg, we are seeing developments that are happening. The speech of the Executive Mayor gave us a light and an insight that in the inner city, commercial and residential developments are coming that are going to revive the dormant spaces and turn the decay into economic density. In areas like Fourways, Midrand, Diepsloot, the Southern Farms, we are witnessing a catalyst infrastructure program that is aimed at attracting Logistics, Finance and Tech based industries. So, Madam Speaker, we are on the right track.

The work around the corridors of freedom transit-oriented development is reconnecting our communities to economic opportunities. We know that for a very long time, our people were deprived of enjoying economic prosperity in this city, and we are ensuring that the development that comes, it links our people with the prosperity they deserve. These are not just some abstract policies. They are cranes in the sky and drop on the ground that are aiming to rebuild our world class African city as envisioned by former Mayor Parks Tau.

Madam Speaker, we cannot also ignore the significance of the presidential support package of the City of Johannesburg. It is not just a charity, but it is a vote of confidence in the administration's capability and capacity to execute. The package brings with it the capital injection into urban infrastructure, it supports energy and water resilience programs, and it makes an alignment with the national priorities and job creation, youth development and township economic revitalization. Johannesburg is no longer just a city that wants to beg, but it is a city that wants to earn. For far too long, we have suffered from a low collection rate, faulty billing system and shrinking rate space. That is changing, Madam Speaker, it is definitely coming to an end. The city is enhancing the revenue system and modernizing platforms to plug out the leakages that are in our revenue streams. To restore confidence in the municipality services.

Madam Speaker, through our partnership with the President and the national government, we will be able to see the release of Public Private Partnership, Strategic rezoning, unlocking of new nodes, particularly in former industrial corridors and underutilized public lands. We are expanding the City's fiscal muscle not by taxing, but

by enabling economic activity in our City. The growth is the only sustainable way forward and there is no other way where we can be able to rebuild our city but by ensuring that we fight for economic growth. We must ensure that we enforce policies that will give our city a turnaround plan that is as follows:

We will ensure that clean governance is not an option, but it is mandatory, it is also a precondition for our recovery. This administration is putting in place the controls, the audits and consequence management needed to make sure that we pluck out corruption and prioritize service delivery. That will make sure we reward and get forward with our city. We are rebuilding a city that will have machinery to attend to everyone within our city. We are also witnessing that the turnaround strategy will also give us a high impact team that will be responsible for the implementation of the strategy. This team will be known as the bomb squad. I heard Councillor Harris dismissing this team, but I would also like to liken this team with the bomb squad that we have in our Springbok team. Coach Rassie Erasmus realized that for you to have a high impact, you might have a team that works inside the pitch, but at some point, you might need a bomb squad that will come through and push and give us efficiency. Johannesburg will become a more effective and efficient city.

This speech by the Executive Mayor captures more than just metrics and plans. It speaks to the new spirit, the city that is willing to confront its past and forge a path forward. A city that does not deny its failures but refuses to be defined by them. Madam Speaker, we are rebuilding not only roads, but trust. We are not only attracting investments, but hope. We are creating not just jobs, but dignity.

In enclosing, Madam Speaker, let us not underestimate what we are witnessing here. A city that is rising from its knees. A city that has been written off too many times, and we even heard in this House today. We are rewriting a story of a city that will be prosperous. A city where future generations will be proud of. A city where everyone that comes from that city will be proud to live in. We will one day look back and say, "We are proud of the city that we have built". The Executive Mayor was correct. This is the only home we know. This is the only place we grew up in and we must make sure that we protect it. We fight for this city. We will die for this city, and we will make sure that no one takes advantage of this city for the sake of grandstanding and wanting to be voted back.

Let us all, regardless of our political stripes, be part of this turnaround strategy. Let us lend a hand to work, to rebuild our city. Let us put our voices as messages of unity and our energy to fight for the City of Johannesburg. A city that will work, grow and include everyone.

Madam Speaker, the city is rising, let us rise with it. Let us rise with our Jozi. As the ANC caucus, we rise to say we see the vision. We support the direction, Executive Mayor. We are ready to walk the journey. We are ready to walk street by street, Ward by Ward, Region by Region and issue by issue up until no one is left behind, the City of Johannesburg will rise again.

Thank you."

5 RESPONSE BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

“Honourable Speaker of Council, Councillor N Mthembu; the honourable Whip of Council, Councillors S Zungu; Members of the Mayoral Committee; Council members; Councillors of the City of Johannesburg; the residents of Johannesburg, Good afternoon. Well, today is indeed a good day, it is a brand-new day in Jozi, and I hope everyone is well rested as we enter this debate and ready for the future, which will start today.

I did not want to be dragged into politicking today, but it is also important to correct what may be regarded as misinformation in this Chamber, and to all Afrikaans speaking Councillors, Councillor Boer, we recognize your 100 years. I will try to speak Afrikaans in the better part of the response as a proud South African. I am a proud South African precisely because when we took over in 1994, we adopted 11 official languages. Conscious of the fact that we are a diverse nation, and we are in a project to build a nation, therefore, we did hear and understand the input made this morning in Afrikaans.

Councillor Harris, Exodus, Chapter 1 says, “God appoints Moses to lead the people out of bondage and Moses serves as God's spokesmen”. We are the spokespersons of the people of Johannesburg as you are seated here. They appoint us to lead, and I am glad that most political parties headed to the call of not punching holes but rather focus on bringing voices from their constituencies to the debate. For this I thank you.

Madam Speaker, let me take you through the process of grafting and drafting any state of the city address. The drafting of the state of the city address started six months before it was delivered yesterday. We held the Mayoral Iekgotla in November 2024. The mayoral committee together with administration, in that Lakota, we reimaged Johannesburg. The Lekgotla was attended, amongst others by Ministers of Government; the Deputy Minister of Water, the Minister of DTI; the Minister of Human Settlements and other government officials who attended that meeting and gave us insights and inputs into matters related to our city called Johannesburg. The Lekgotla was then followed by stakeholder engagements where we brought external thoughts into the city planning and budgeting process. The Midyear SDBIP and budget adjustment was our first attempt to reposition the budget so that we can accelerate our performance. The IDP consultation process was a crucial part of the process and management consolidated issues for consideration for SOCA in the IDP and budget. Now the SOCA comes because of these steps that I have referred to, and in those steps, the discussions and the debates on the turnaround strategy took place.

Before the SOCA was delivered, indeed, a process of consultation report was given to us to consolidate the SOCA. SOCA did not come as a result of one sleeping, someone waking up and drafting a speech. It is informed of the IDP process, it is informed of the SDBIP. It is informed by the Mayoral Lekgotla that took place. It is informed of the Budget Adjustment Council meeting that took place. So, this process is not easy. We need to fast track results because the people of Johannesburg kept raising concerns that we could not ignore. To mediate these difficulties, we reached out to the President for the presidential support package, and we are lucky that we received the

positive response from His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa. Cyril Ramaphosa is the President of the Republic of South Africa, Sello Dada Morero is the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, and we have a responsibility. It is an organ of state through the district development model to engage other spheres of government in an attempt to ensure delivery in Johannesburg.

The first task of the presidential support package is to present society with the Johannesburg turnaround strategy. I too, am a resident of Johannesburg, and I participate actively in the presidential process. Yesterday, the President publicly said that he received my email, and he will be considering making inputs into the proposal of the strategy that in fact was a process of the engagements that I have referred to earlier. Included amongst others, was a stakeholder consultation in the build-up process. So, the turnaround strategy will be published, of course, by the Presidential Task Team in due course. You too may make submissions to the turnaround strategy; the door is not closed. Perhaps I am tempted also to clarify that a mayor is the elected head of a city or a town government responsible for overseeing administration, managing the city's budget and then ensuring the provision of essential services. The mayor also represents the city on a national level. Promote economic development and act as a community leader. In many cases, the mayor has also the power to veto legislation passed by council and appoint key city officials, it is an important part that we clarify this matter.

Fellow Councillors, our priorities to focus on by law enforcement, and service delivery is a critical step in the right direction. We are noting the progress made. It is the impact that we need to talk about. Joburgers are concerned about their city, we must respond to their concerns. We have been engaged in the IDP consultation process, and we can see their frustrations. However, I appreciated that residents are noting the progress we are making, for us, this should symbolize that we are on the right direction. Indeed, we are not going to ignore concerns as raised through the IDP consultation processes which are an important element of governments' process to arrive at the budget. While local government is complex and requires complex solutions. I refer Councillors, to the Local Government Municipal Staff Regulations, as gazetted by the Minister of COGTA, on the 20th of September 2021, which informs us that a staff member may be transferred for operational requirements of the affected institution, including the transfers of staff members to address such requirements. Now, only the City Manager is a Section 57 employee, let me remind you that all direct reports to the city manager are now permanent employees. They are now all regulated by the Staff Regulations, as I have stated above. Secondly, the Municipal Structures Act 1998 of 117, section gives me executive authority to manage the Mayoral Committee, it is therefore a function bestowed to the Executive Mayor.

Today, this Council agrees that we are in difficult times and difficult times require smart solutions. We come from a school of thought that says structure must follow strategy, we have a strategy and what is wrong in putting in place a structure that support that strategy? What is wrong? It is important to also note that Council reports are the following, the Integrated Development Plan is a Council report. The SDBIP, Budget reports, Performance reports, Spatial Development Plan, land reports and MOUs are reports that would come to Council, and we will not act outside of the regulations of Council in terms of submitting reports to Council. We have been consistent in bringing the reports that are required to come to Council.

Perhaps on a side show, in 2011, we accounted for 180 informal settlements in Johannesburg. We kept the informal settlements at 180 until 2016, between 2016 and 2021 Johannesburg now accounts for 319 informal settlements. It is important to note that indeed, there was mayoral change in 2016, and I leave it to you to decide, but between 2016 and 2021 informal settlements ballooned from 180 to 319. I will leave it to this Chamber to decide.

Whip of Council, SOCA made the call that we must focus on Johannesburg we want to see. Let us focus and respond to the people of Johannesburg. We know it to go beyond our political interests and respond to the people of Johannesburg. Yesterday, business, government and civil society gave me feedback that they are in support of the direction presented in SOCA. For example, you can read Business Tech today, they welcome the bomb squad which will help us to defuse the ticking bomb in Johannesburg.

Councillor Radebe had helped me to define what a bomb squad is in simple terms, from the Rugby or Springbok point of view. Which in fact, that is where I borrowed the concept from Springbok, which refers to the Springbok strategy of using a bench with a high number of forwards. Often 7 to 1 split, or seven forward one back and this tactic is designed to bring on a fresh, powerful pack of forwards in the closing stages of the match. Creating an advantage in the scrum, line out and breakdown and that is what a bomb squad is.

Secondly, change is happening in Lanseria, we are informed that the airport management is contemplating renaming the facility to more closely reflect and celebrate its connection to our city as part of the broader vision for its growth and identity. As the city will support this initiative, which we believe will strengthen the effort brand and foster a stronger sense of belonging. Tough choices must be made. While we make these choices, we must balance between servicing ourselves or serving the people of Johannesburg and I think at the centre, is servicing the people of Johannesburg.

Councillor Mabaso, it is no accident that over the years we have been focused on mega projects to unlock housing opportunities for our people. We are proudly saying for the first time in the history of South Africa, we will unlock a mega project of 80,000 housing opportunities. It does not only contribute to housing opportunities, but it also contributes to economic growth. So, watch the space in Midrand, delivered proudly by the government of local unit.

Madam Speaker, it is not in our interest to compare ourselves. We are in the business of benchmarking against the best in the world. It is not fair to constantly compare with what some say it is where they govern because when the truth is then said about where they govern, they then frown. Madam Speaker, one city in South Africa, with 4.8 million inhabitants accounts for two worlds. Those who come from an ethnic group represented by Councillor Zigebe will tell you, that when we land in the airport, they will ask you if you want a taxi to eKapa or Cape Town? Because it represents two worlds in one city. Yes indeed, you will not find a pothole in Cape Town, you will find multiple in eKapa. It is important that when we compare ourselves and when the truth is told, people will start frowning because they have not been eKapa, they have been to Cape Town. Cape Town accounts for 800 informal settlements today. Cape Town spends the lowest in informal settlement grant, today.

Let us ask them a question, what does that mean? When you spend less on informal settlement grant. Let them respond and tell us why. I did not want to sidetrack this debate but sometimes it is important to raise these issues in Council.

Indeed, we will be passing a budget soon, we will reflect on all the projects and concerns raised today through the budget speech. It will include Councillor Tefo's area, the most worrying area in your Ward, the fire trucks and we will respond through that budget. We will respond through the budget on how we are servicing areas in the suburbs and how we are servicing areas in the townships. It is not true that we ignored the issue in relation to the availability charge. We did announce in the adjustment budget that the availability charge will remain as is and no increase will be affected. And in that availability charge, let us tell the truth to our people, that 103 customers on our ESP who could not afford are exempted from paying the availability charge. So, let us be truthful to our people. We have also set the availability charge on conventional customers will remain.

Tactical choices also need to be made when they are competing interests. It is not easy, Comrade Chief Whip, to make some of these decisions but we do make decisions because we must forge ahead. A decision to consider the business and industries, is an important decision because it supports our commitment to grow the economy of Johannesburg by at least an extra 1% so that we can increase our GDP to 3%, and in doing so, it means we must be conscious of attracting industries into our city and provide incentives. We are balancing between industry and residential. Tough choices must be made and will make these choices, and we must balance between servicing our people and servicing ourselves.

Madam Speaker, thank you for your support. We agree that transformation will happen in Johannesburg. Brick by Brick, street by the street. Count me, in this message as I am getting out of the debate today. Count all the inputs made in this debate today as important elements towards building a vibrant City of Johannesburg. Let us tell the people of Johannesburg that we are united as Councillors of the city and all our different views will be processed as part of us planning around this city. We will never leave anyone out, come make constructive contributions. Do not complain, do not nag, make constructive contributions so that all of us can change the face of Johannesburg.

I have recognized former Mayor Mashaba and indeed, he wrote the book titled the Accidental Mayor, I did not make it up, and yes, it is true, he made a commitment to clean the City of Johannesburg. So, I did not make it up. It is the work that he has done and is the book that he wrote. So, it will be incorrect for you to suggest that the intention was to attack former Mayor Mashaba. Let me also say to you ActionSA, the road ahead requires a collective effort. Contribute, challenge us, and when we invite you for contributions, do bring your contributions. It does not mean that your contributions are always right. You must therefore allow yourselves to also be engaged. I listened to your so-called state of the city address. You did very well, and you looked very beautiful on screen. Let us tell the people of Johannesburg that we are united. United we stand, divided we fall. We have a lot to do. Let us get on with it and focus on saving the people of Johannesburg.

Thank you, Madam Speaker".

6 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker thanked Councillors for their contributions and the Executive Mayor for accordingly responding to issues raised by the political parties.

She thereafter reminded Council that there was an Extra-Ordinary Council meeting scheduled to start immediately after the State of the City Debate, at 14:30.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 14:17



**SPEAKER OF COUNCIL
CLLR N MTHEMBU**

19/06/2025

DATE