



Executive Mayor's Foreword

Johannesburg has always been and continues to remain a city of stark contrasts – between those who enjoy the highest standard of living, and those who struggle to make ends meet. It is a city of colliding worlds and visions; a city divided and a city that still bears the spatial scars of the unjust and immoral system of Apartheid. However, this cannot be Johannesburg's only story and it cannot be the story that prevails into the future. Johannesburg needs to change course. Joburg 2040 provides the basis for this change – as we continually strive to become an equitable, non-racial, prosperous, non-sexist and just society. Shifting course will require commitment and dedication from all who make this city their home. Extraordinary effort is demanded of all of us, to work towards building a more equitable society, where everyone is cared for and where none are neglected.

I announced the GDS outreach process precisely because I was aware of the large social, economic and environmental challenges facing this city. I was also aware of the parallel truth: that Johannesburg is a city of immense potential. This city's greatest assets are its people. Through the outreach process, the contributions of thousands of citizens have been heard – with the final Joburg 2040 GDS providing clear evidence of the immense power of collective voices, and the enduring commitment of all those who have contributed.

The GDS outreach process has been of great importance in building a collective and shared vision for the future of Johannesburg. In the process, we have all managed to express our concerns, fears, hopes, dreams and aspirations for the future city of Johannesburg – with these reflected as points of common agreement within this GDS itself. We all want to live in a great city – a city that inspires everyone to achieve more than is immediately possible. These aspirations are expressed in the vision developed from the outreach process – a vision the City chooses to adopt for the path ahead:

"Johannesburg – a World Class African City of the Future – a vibrant, equitable African city, strengthened through its diversity; a city that provides real quality of life; a city that provides sustainability for all its citizens; a resilient and adaptive society."

The GDS outreach process is the first step in creating a city that inspires. We have made a commitment to the citizens of Johannesburg that, as the City, we will not treat citizens as passive recipients of government services, but rather as active agents in shaping their own future. Creating spaces for conversation is our duty as developmental local government, as we collectively seek to tackle the immense changes and opportunities that lay ahead. As part of this process, we have pioneered a new way of doing things. We have in front of us a strategy that not only provides a vision of the future, but importantly, defines clear outcomes against which to measure progress. In keeping with the ethos of the GDS outreach process, the City will develop a roadmap to implement the important outcomes defined in this strategy – and will again turn to you, the people of Johannesburg, to contribute to the development and rollout of this roadmap.

This is a pioneering city. People come to Johannesburg because they know they can make it here – the city continues to attract pioneers. From a dusty mining camp to a bustling global metropolis, the city of Johannesburg is a symbol of this pioneering spirit, of which we are all part. The contribution made by each of you has now become the vision of the City. It is the responsibility of our generation to change the city into a truly great place to live, work and play. Let's do it.

Joburg. My City – Our Future!

Councillor Mpho Franklyn (Parks) Tau

Executive Mayor

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