

**STATEMENT BY THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG EXECUTIVE MAYOR UPON THE UNVEILING OF THE END OF TERM REPORT 2011 – 2016 IN SANDTON ON WEDNESDAY, 06 July 2016**

**Outlining our record of delivery in past five years**

As the current term of office draws to a close, it is an opportune time to reflect on how far the current leadership of the City of Johannesburg has advanced the objectives of our Growth and Development Strategy 2040.

This is a strategy that was developed by the City with residents through the integrated development plan (IDP) process. This is a strategy anchored on our term of office's spatial redesign and socio-economic transformation mandate.

When we came into office in 2011 we made a commitment to residents to improve their lives through accelerated delivery of services and the implementation of developmental programmes that they can directly participate and benefit from. This is exactly what we have been doing as a developmental and progressive local government city region.

Today we are pleased to unveil the Johannesburg End of Term Report 2011 – 2016, which captures and outlines the current leadership's record of delivery in the past five year. This is a report that looks to help us promote accountability by the City's top leadership.

The report is designed to improve transparency in the metropolitan municipality as it also presents a strategic assessment of progress made against the mandate given to us by the people of Johannesburg.

However, it also clearly states that although much has been done in the City, more still needs to be attended to as it acknowledges the challenges that remain and how the City intends responding to them.

**Our undisputed record of delivery**

There are some who just want to pretend that no delivery has happened in the City in the past 21 years while misleading residents that they can miraculously deliver things that they alone claim have not been delivered.

This is very unfortunate because our record speaks for itself when you move in and around Johannesburg. I can not begin to imagine how the City would hide the kilometres of roads that we have tarred in the current term of office. How can one overlook an

expanding bus rapid transit system that is already operational on 45km trunk routes in the City? Walking or driving in our City, our roads are today very inclusive and lined with trees and paving on sidewalks – as we continue building a City that appreciates that Johannesburg belongs to all who drive, cycle and walk.

How do we then as a City begin to hide community investments that include shopping malls, state of the art recreational parks with gym facilities, up-market theatres that can also be found in a township? Looking around the City one can easily find stadiums and multipurpose centres in our townships today.

Many young and old residents who are either students, entrepreneurs or small enterprises are already benefiting from the roll-out of the Free COJ Wifi which they use for, among others, homework, studies and job assignments. This is while scores of our youth are registered and receiving free online education which is currently offered in our public libraries through the Massive Open Online Varsity (MOOV) network.

The City has furthermore delivered and continues to deliver basic services to all our residents, including those who live in informal settlements. It is certainly no a secret that Johannesburg is leading with the development of integrated settlements such as Lufhureng, Fleurhof, Cosmo City, Lehae and Kliptown.

In this term of office, we have committed to continue building integrated communities through our spatial redesign drive. We have built flagship infrastructure through programmes such as the Corridors of Freedom, which includes the Rea Vaya bus rapid transit system.

Johannesburg is a City that listens when its residents speak. Over the ending term, we have installed 1 258 Remote Monitoring Units at priority traffic signal intersections to be able to improve our turnaround time in attending to faulty or damaged traffic signals.

The City has furthermore upgraded 930 traffic signal controllers and upgraded 811 traffic signal intersections to South African Roads Traffic Signs Manual requirements. Furthermore, Johannesburg has re-cabled 297 traffic signal intersections and installed 192 uninterrupted power supplies at prioritised intersections.

Many of you may have already noticed by now that there is a lot of work being done on our roads and bridges, including along the M1 freeway. All this is part of the City's R100 billion's strategic infrastructure investment undertaken for a 10-year period. Already 1 900km of roads have been resurfaced. We have upgraded roads also in deprived areas that include Orange Farm; Ivory Park; Diepsloot; Doornkop; Braamficsheville; Thulani; Drieziek; Slovoville; Kaalfontein and Mayibuye.

All these service interventions are in response to what the citizens of Johannesburg have identified as areas that the City must focus on during our Integrated Development Plan process.

It is important to point out that Johannesburg is still a City at work to undo a lot of injustices of apartheid that require more than just 21 years to completely eradicate.

In addition to service delivery, the City has made significant strides to bring about socio-economic transformation among Johannesburg residents through our developmental programmes - Jozi@Work and Vulindlel'eJozi youth programme.

Johannesburg has created 200 000 job opportunities under the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and further contracted just over 1100 cooperatives and other community based companies under Jozi@Work. Almost 10 000 people are employed by these entities. Johannesburg is a City that has supported up to 24 000 SMMEs through our SMME Hub network since 2011.

Our youth programme, Vulindlel'eJozi has already begun breaking down barriers to various opportunities for our youth – with 45 000 opportunities already secured for them in partnership with 250 private companies. Up to 7000 young people have been placed in jobs while other are in further education or entrepreneurship skills development programmes.

One of our implementation partners, Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator has indicated that of the 200 000 young people we had initially targeted, about 150 000 have expressed interest in the programme and they are currently being assessed to be matched to opportunities that exist for them.

Our youth development strategy – in the form of Vulindlel'eJozi, together with Jozi@Work, have gone on to be recognised as being amongst the best in the world by the Citi Foundation and The Economist.

The challenges that we faced in 2011, and in some cases continue to face, were numerous. We are a vibrant and diverse city, with a population of 4.7 million people. Our City is today made up of world-class infrastructure and facilities, as well as growing levels of middle and upper class residents. At the same time many households remain in poverty, with food security and inequality as an ongoing challenge.

As a City, we have committed to ensuring that we aggressively fight poverty in our communities. As it stands, Johannesburg is a city where the average household income is R15 270 per month. Of this average, 50% of households earn about R3 543. These are the poor households that spend between 60 and 80 percent of their income on food, housing and transport. This is why as a City we have the responsibility to come up with interventions that reduce the cost of all these and increase access.

So far, the City has reached 47 000 poor households with approximately 150 000 people who are food insecure. We have also gone on to upgrade 30 000 informal homes with 90 000 people in them. This is against an influx into the City annually of about 120 000.

### **The backbone of our city**

Five years ago the City also faced challenges around financial sustainability and resilience. This was one of the first areas the Johannesburg leadership committed to resolving when we began our term of office in 2011. The particular challenge here was to turnaround the City's billing system, and focus on fiscal responsibility and high standards of prudent financial management.

Today we are a City that has received unqualified audit opinions for the last three financial years. We have built our cash reserves significantly, and we are driving the highest capital investment programme in the country.

Johannesburg today is a R78 billion asset local government entity which accounts for 14% of the national economy. We have had a massive increase on our capital expenditure – from R3.7 billion in 2011/12 to R10.8 billion in 2014/15. We also went on to improve our billing distribution from 2013 through the use of SMS and MMS, as well as beefed up query resolution average of 90% within 30 days. This was achieved particularly through regionalisation. Our financial soundness further saw the City facilitate over R8 billion local investments.

Almost five years ago, the City also implemented an outcome-based approach to our work. This involved ensuring that not only do we deliver projects and programmes for our communities, but that we also focused on measuring and monitoring their impact. This kept our focus firm on building a liveable, resilient and a sustainable City.

Johannesburg has overall built a good reputation, both locally and globally, and we continue to be a destination of choice for business tourism, as well as for international conferences and events.

As a growing smart city, we have developed technology, using digital tools for better connectivity and improved service delivery through our free Wifi hotspots, our new portal Maru a Jozi and e-libraries.

We have built innovation into all of our work, and the Green Bond continues to receive prestigious recognition as a revolutionary approach to financing and mitigation of climate change.

Innovation has also enabled us to start producing electricity from sludge at our treatment plants while also exploring hydropower as another alternative that could significantly mitigate load shedding in Johannesburg.

As the end of the 2011 - 2016 term of office closes, we are sure that the path towards realising our long term growth and development goals remains sound. Indeed we did not receive all the accolades that include;

- Two upgrades in just 12 months from global rating agencies, Fitch and Moody's,
- A C40 Award for the most innovative financing model – Green Bond – as a first C40 city to have such bond listed on the stock exchange,
- The Arbor City Award 2015, and
- The South Africa's Greenest Metropolitan Municipality Award

We even had independent surveys conducted on Johannesburg by the Global Financial Centers Index, the Good City Index, as well as the MasterCard Global Destination Cities Index that found respectively that;

- We are ranked 33<sup>rd</sup> most economically powerful City in the world and number one on the African continent
- We are the second most inspiring City in the world
- Most popular destination in Africa for a second consecutive year

However, despite all these highlighted service delivery milestones and accolades, challenges remain in Johannesburg, particularly around socio-economic transformation. It is therefore important for all the work outlined in the End of Term Report 2011 – 2016, which is being unveiled today, to be continued beyond the current ending term of office.

This will ensure greater impact in creating access to economic and social opportunities for more residents of Johannesburg, and certainly improve the quality of life for the many who live in the City.

Thank you.