



## **CITY OF JOHANNESBURG**

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### **Media Statement**

#### **For Immediate Release**

### **EXECUTIVE MAYOR GWAMANDA ON DA ATTEMPTS TO ATTACK THE CITY MANAGER AND CITY MANAGEMENT**

21 September 2023

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The Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Cllr. Kabelo Gwamanda, has noted with great concern a contemptuous campaign by the Democratic Alliance (DA) and its Councilors in the City that seeks to mobilize right-wing elements against the City administration and the City Manager in particular.

The campaign, driven via social media and WhatsApp Groups, seeks to directly attack the integrity and persona of the City-Manager together with his Executive Team. Over the last few days, the City Manager has been inundated with a variety of concerning threats masqueraded as service-delivery concerns on his personal mobile phone and via his office. This is as a result of a mischievous attempt to undermine the efforts of the City Manager and Executive Management to rebuild the City's ability to deliver services following the mismanagement that the DA meted on the City post the 2021 Local Government Elections.

The City has a myriad of challenges, many of which are historical and these have a negative impact on service delivery. It is none other party than the DA that oversaw the collapse of the City's finances and administration. Under DA governance, the City had no City-Manager, no Group Chief Financial Officer and no Chief Operations Officer.

It is the same DA that oversaw the flawed appointment of an unqualified person as the Chief Executive Officer of the Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA). A critical entity for the maintenance and delivery of new roads and bridges in the City of Johannesburg.

“As the Government of Local Unity, we note the desperation for relevance and attention by the DA and will not stand-by and watch the City's administration being harassed and threatened for nefarious political ends. The DA is aware that Council has rules and procedures and that various established channels exist for communities and residents to engage and raise concerns with the City. Any alternative means that seek to undermine

the persona and characters of the Executive are frowned upon and will not be tolerated” said Mayor Gwamanda.

More concerning, is several letters received from several DA Councilors which seek to divide the City and its services in line with the contribution to revenue by various wards. The City has an adopted Integrated Development Plan (IDP) which identifies our priorities and programs. The IDP is recently adopted and as a City we are hard at work to realize the targets of the IDP.

“The privilege the DA seeks to smuggle into the discourse through mobilizing the privileged against the disadvantaged is a desperate right-wing tendency and must be frowned upon. We cannot seek to undermine the historical injustice against the poor in our City on the basis that those that can afford must be serviced first and with preference” added Mayor Gwamanda

The City of Johannesburg under the Government of Local Unity is committed to redress and transformation. Its intentions are to guarantee services of the City for all residents without regard for race, gender or creed. The City will not be drawn into backward tendencies that seek to return it to a painful past whose effects and consequences live with us to this day.

END.

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