



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

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Address by the Executive Mayor, Cllr Thapelo Amad on
the occasion of the
Opening of the Bophelong Clinic in Doornkop
on 29 March 2023

MMC for Health and Social Development, Cllr Ennie Makhafola;
City Manager, Mr. Floyd Brink;
Executive Director for Health;
Executive Director for Social Development;
City Officials;
Members of the Media;
And most importantly members of the Doornkop Community

Joburg is a vibrant City.

It is the home of hopes and dreams - a place where we have high ambitions and even higher expectations.

For many years, Joburg was known as the best place to live, work and play – in the country, and even on the continent.

As I reflect on the concept of this vibrant City, my thoughts are interrupted by the obvious decline in Service Delivery.

It is an unpleasant thing to highlight our failures and our shortcomings. To stand in front of people and tell them things don't work.

But these are hard facts and I am not going to run away from them.

As the Executive Mayor of Johannesburg I participate in council with my fellow councillors and I have daily meetings with City officials.

In these engagements I am confronted with the **growing challenges** that face our City.

Every day I'm bombarded with reasons – as valid as they may be- of why our City isn't working.

So I've had to shift my thinking.

Yes, I'm the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg.

But what does this mean to me personally?

It means I am the Mayor on Duty,

And as the Mayor on Duty, I serve every resident and every community.

Being the Mayor on Duty means I need build a bridge over the many challenges I am faced with to restore and return Joburg to its status of the best place to live, work, and play.

Today it is my duty to remind us that a key element of improving this City of ours - lies in the health and wellbeing of every Joburg resident.

Each and every member of our City deserves access to quality healthcare that is efficient, accessible and equitable.

So today is good day to be the Mayor on Duty

Because we are here to open the revamped Bophelong Clinic in Doornkop.

Today we confront the health challenges in our community and bring to Doornkop and its surrounding areas a state of the art, eco-friendly facility capable of accommodating a large number of patients.

And while I am impressed by the efforts of Johannesburg Development Agency in delivering a facility like this, I am very happy that this world-class facility will offer a wide range of health and welfare services, with its 200 seater waiting area, 18 consultation rooms, and a children's play area

Bophelong Clinic is geared up to offer a full basket of primary healthcare services such as family planning, vaccination and HIV/TB treatment.

The clinic has 22 employees, two sessional doctors, one social worker, two environmental health practitioners and 10 ward-based outreach teams.

In this regard I must thank the Provincial Health Department for their continued support in ensuring the clinic is equipped with the skills and knowledge to deal with the broad range of services and outreach initiatives associated with the clinic.

As I close, I think it is important to share two expectations I have for two key stakeholders here today

First, to our officials and staff who are on the frontline of our City's health and social services:

The people who come to our clinics, come here because they need help.

Let us treat them with dignity and care.

Let our service outmatch the standard set by this brick-and-mortar structure.

And may our service standards at Bophelong Clinic in Doornkop become an example that others will want to follow.

To our dedicated staff – the doctors, nurses, administrators, outreach staff security, and cleaners – Your efforts and service to this community is appreciated.

Thank you for your service

Secondly, to our community members.

This facility is yours. I implore you to take care of it.

Our City-wide infrastructure is under attack by vandalism and theft on a daily basis.

Please help us look after Bophelong Clinic and report vandalism as it happens.

It takes a collective effort to drive change.

Let us all join hands in ensuring that Bophelong Clinic provides service to the community of Doornkop and its surrounding areas.

I thank you.