



**MMC: CLLR. LUBABALO MAGWENTSHU
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CITY OF JOHANNESBURG**

Media Statement

For Immediate Release

20 May 2024

City of Johannesburg committed to the reopening the Joburg City Library to the Public

The City of Johannesburg recognizes the importance of the Joburg City Library (JCL) to the community and understands the concerns surrounding its closure to the public for the past three years.

In response to the growing demand for the library's reopening as well the demands expressed in Saturday's protest action, the City has allocated R25 million in the 2024/2025 CAPEX budget as part of the initial R45 million needed to bring the facility into full compliance with safety regulations.

This budget was announced during the Budget Speech Delivered by the Member on the Mayoral Committee on Tuesday, 14 May 2024.

With this commitment to address this matter during financially challenging times, the City has initiated the procurement process to appoint service providers who will address critical fire safety concerns at the library.

This phase of the project is expected to pave the way for the partial reopening of the JCL in the next financial year, with the remaining work to follow to ensure full operation of the facility.

"We understand the significance of the Joburg City Library to the community, the importance of preserving and protecting the archives, the need to ensure compliance to safety regulations, protecting the community and reducing the risk for Library personnel and we are taking proactive steps to ensure its reopening," said Councillor Lubalo Magwentshu. MMC for Community Development in the City of Johannesburg.

Currently, the contractors are working on soldering and waterproofing of external gutters as part of the current phase, and other work will begin on the much-needed compliance issues from July 2024.

"The allocated funds and ongoing procurement process demonstrate our commitment to restoring this valuable resource for the benefit of all residents," concludes MMC Magwentshu.

The City of Johannesburg remains dedicated to ensuring the safety and accessibility of public spaces, and the reopening of the Joburg City Library is a priority in this regard.

Regular updates on the progress of the project will be shared with the public and all stakeholders as developments unfold.

ENDS

Issued by the City of Joburg Member of the Mayoral Committee, Cllr L. Magwentshu

For enquiries, kindly send email to mediaqueries@joburg.org.za