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## Media Release

### For Immediate Release

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### **Joburg Named as Finalist for 2025 Bloomberg Philanthropies Local Leaders Awards Ahead of COP30 Local Leaders Forum in Rio de Janeiro**

The City of Johannesburg has been announced as one of the finalists for the 2025 Bloomberg Philanthropies Local Leaders Awards. These awards recognise innovative policies, projects, and programmes led by local leaders that have effectively addressed climate change over the past three years.

In collaboration with C40 Cities, the Awards underscore the vital and transformative role mayors and local leaders worldwide play in accelerating progress on climate action, especially in the lead-up to COP30.

“The selection of the City of Johannesburg as a finalist for the 2025 Local Leaders Awards is a powerful validation of Johannesburg’s Just Transition approach,” said the **Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Cllr Dada Morero**.

“Our Solar Micro-grids project is more than an energy solution; it’s an innovative commitment to social equity, directly addressing historical exclusion and aligning with our Climate Action Plan. We are pioneering a decentralised, climate-resilient, and inclusive energy system that will bring dignity, social benefits, and a brighter, low-carbon future to our most marginalised communities,” concluded Cllr Morero.

The Local Leaders Awards feature six categories that celebrate leadership in:

- **Energy Transition & Smarter Buildings:** Cutting costs and carbon with clean power and efficient design
- **Clean, Reliable Transportation:** Moving people and goods on dependable, low-emission networks
- **Safer Infrastructure for a Changing World:** Guarding communities with resilient, climate-ready systems
- **Healthy Cities, Strong Communities:** Elevating air quality, green space, and everyday well-being

- **Sustainable Waste Solutions:** Slashing waste, creating jobs, and keeping pollution out of landfills
- **Power of Partnership:** Cities & regions uniting to deliver national-level climate results

Under the leadership of the Executive Mayor, Cllr Dada Morero, Johannesburg has been selected as a finalist in the Energy Transition & Smarter Buildings category for its Solar Micro-grids project in Johannesburg Informal Settlements.

The programme uses solar PV and battery storage to deliver reliable, affordable electricity to informal settlements. The Amarasta installation alone has reduced carbon emissions by 101 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually and has created over 80 local jobs. The City aims to expand the project to 312 informal settlements citywide, potentially benefiting 67,840 households and avoiding 95,400 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year.

The final winners of the 2025 Bloomberg Philanthropies Local Leaders Awards will be announced during the COP30 Local Leaders Forum *in Rio de Janeiro on 4 November 2025*. Now in its ninth edition, the Local Leaders Awards celebrates the most ambitious and innovative climate projects that deliver measurable impact. The Awards recognise outstanding achievements while showcasing scalable solutions and providing finalists with a platform to share best practices, inspire action, and drive progress in communities worldwide.

For more information about the Awards, please visit: <https://www.bloomberg.org/2025-local-leaders-awards/>

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Issued by the City of Johannesburg

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