



a world class African city

Media Statement

For Immediate Release

Date: 02 September 2025

Council approves Hostel Revitalisation Unitary Plan

The City of Johannesburg council has approved the Hostel Revitalisation Unitary Plan today, September 2, 2025. This plan was tabled by the MMC of Human Settlements, Councillor Mlungisi Mabaso.

This approval enables the Department of Human Settlements to proceed with implementing the plan, which aims to transform hostels throughout the city and address their ongoing decay.

In March, MMC Mabaso was joined by Executive Mayor Councillor Dada Morero, Gauteng MEC of Human Settlements, Honourable Tasneem Motara, former Speaker of Council Nobuhle Mthembu, and MEC for E-Government Bonginkosi Dlamini as he introduced the Hostel Revitalisation Unitary Plan to the entire leadership of izinduna. The plan received widespread support from izinduna, who regarded it as a significant instrument for improving living conditions in hostels citywide.

Key features of the plan include conducting a socio-economic survey of all hostel residents to collect accurate demographic data. The plan also proposes shifting away from the traditional model where the government solely funds hostels, instead inviting developers and funders to partner with the city to alleviate budget constraints.

Additionally, the plan calls for improved management and control of hostels to facilitate effective redevelopment. The Department of Human Settlements is tasked with developing a clear allocation strategy and a rental collection system. Effective communication between the department and hostel residents will be essential for securing buy-in and ensuring community participation in development efforts.

MMC Mabaso expressed satisfaction with the council's adoption of the document, emphasising its potential to bring positive change to hostel communities.

"The adoption of this plan by the council is a significant boost for the people living in the hostels. It allows us to act swiftly in redeveloping the hostels and changing the way these spaces are perceived for the better," said Mabaso.

Ends

For media inquiries:
Penwell Dlamini
Office of the MMC Human Settlements
0827858743

Issued by the City of Johannesburg

For all media queries, send an email to mediaqueries@joburg.org.za