



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

Councillor Dr Mgcini Tshwaku

Member of the Mayoral Committee

Department of Public Safety

MEDIA BRIEFING

29 October 2025

Time: 10H00 AM

Good morning, members of the Media, Public Safety Colleagues, and Stakeholders. It is my honour and privilege to welcome you all to today's Public Safety Media Briefing. Allow me to acknowledge the leadership and dedicated officials joining us this morning:

Commissioner Patrick Jaca, Acting Head of Department: Public Safety

Chief Andries Mucavele, Chief of Fire & Emergency Management Services

Director Eldred Fortein, Acting Chief of the Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department

Director Gugu Tywabi, Head of the Integrated Intelligence Operations Centre (IIOC)

Director Gershin Chetty, Licensing Division

Director Vicky Manyathi, Disaster Management

Mr David Tembe, Strategic Advisor to the MMC

I would also like to extend my warm appreciation to all Public Safety colleagues who continue to serve with dedication and professionalism across our various units and operational environments. Your collective efforts remain central to building a safer and more resilient Johannesburg.

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the briefing is to outline the Department's performance, achievements, and challenges for the period from November 2024 until October 2025. This media engagement is part of the Department's commitment to transparency, accountability, and public engagement in matters of safety and security in the city. The media briefing will also provide insight into the Department's vision and strategic plans for the 2025/2026 financial year, including the allocated budget and its intended impact on service delivery, institutional strengthening, and citywide safety interventions.
2. This media briefing comes at a critical time, as we address the unique public safety challenges emerging across our communities. With the festive season approaching, a period known for higher rates of theft, assault, and other crimes, our department is intensifying its efforts to keep residents and businesses safe. Through targeted crime prevention initiatives and strategic resource deployment, we are prepared to manage this seasonal increase in criminal activity and enhance community safety. We have heard our community's concerns, which range from food safety, crime, emergency services, and disaster responsiveness. We want to reassure our communities that we are listening, and we are taking proactive steps to meet their needs.

3. Today's briefing covers our department's activities and progress from November 2024 to the end of October 2025. We will also take you through our key strategic approaches in Crime prevention, By-law enforcement, and Traffic Law management.

THE CORE MANDATE OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

4. As the public safety department, we derive our functions from the prescribed legislation, guided and implemented through policies and procedures recognised by national, provincial, and local governments.
5. Our core mandate is to provide safety and security to the citizens of Johannesburg.
6. We deliver public safety through bylaw enforcement, crime prevention, traffic management, disaster management, an Integrated Intelligent operational centre, Governance and support, Licensing services, and Emergency Management Services.

DEPARTMENT APPROACH TO PUBLIC SAFETY

7. We recognise the critical role of the police force in maintaining law and order, enforcing bylaws and traffic laws, ensuring citizen safety, and upholding human rights.
8. Our approach to policing is based on an open, accountable, corruption-free government, fostering a society free from fear of victimisation by state agencies.
9. Our police officers are not an enemy, and a strategic and beneficial working relationship has been established, focusing on fostering patriotism and loyalty to the country and the people of South Africa rather than to politicians or political offices.

10. We approach crime-fighting with the understanding that crime is a socio-economic issue, aiming to eradicate it by economically developing communities and providing quality jobs and careers to those involved in criminal activities.
11. The department requires that at all material times, its employees must be highly disciplined, ethical, and selfless and respect the citizens of the city of Johannesburg and be highly responsive to their needs.

ON ARRIVAL IN THE OFFICE.

12. As previously reported, almost all the employees of the Department of Public Safety were met, and their challenges were discussed. Community engagements were held in almost all regions/areas within the city. The morale of the employees was very low on arrival at the department. A moratorium was placed on filling vacancies to the point that many positions became unfunded due to the non-filling of positions. A lot of senior positions were of employees in acting positions. There was no progression of the employees' PFA (politically facilitated agreement) was not implemented. JMPD had no bullets, and many officers had no guns. JMPD's fleet was old and had very high mileage, resulting in high maintenance costs. The traffic lights were malfunctioning due to load shedding and vandalism. There was no crime prevention and combating unit; present units were a bylaw management unit, operations which are mainly focused on traffic law enforcement, and other specialised units. There was no aggressive enforcement of bylaws. Disaster management had no plan, no centre, no proper office, and no budget. Fire engine contract not concluded. The response time of the fire engine was long. Problems with the SLA between the COJ licensing unit and Provincial Road Transport, which is not yet finalised due to disagreements on the terms of reference within the SLA.

JOHANNESBURG METRO POLICE DEPARTMENT (JMPD)

13. We are happy to report that we have appointed the Chief of Police, Commissioner Patrick Jaca. All job descriptions of the director, deputy director, chief superintendents, superintendents, inspector, and sergeants were signed off and are going for advertisement. Appointed Director of Security and Liaison to ensure that the procurement process is efficient. It was noted that the JMPD tried to fill in the position of sergeant, but the HR process expired while vetting was in progress, resulting in a re-advertisement of the post. Also, for the Traffic wardens and Patrollers positions, the HR process expired, due to budgetary constraints, as the city should know it has no money. Brand-new cars have been rolled out with the assistance of the GSSC
14. We had initially launched #ManjeNamhlanje crime and grime-busting operations, targeting the enhanced restoration of law and order and bylaw enforcement in the inner city. The following enforcements were carried out:
 - a. high-impact raids in hijacked buildings, such as Vannin Court, Casa Mia, Florence, Ramington, etc
 - b. Dismantling illegal mining (Zama-Zama) sites, Amathole, Jerusalema, Riverlea, Sol Platlie, etc.
 - c. Search and seizure operation, Alex, Diepsloot, Ivory Park, Orange Farm, Windsor, CBD, Yeoville, Berea, Hillbrow, and all the other areas.
 - d. Shut down illegal liquor outlets in Alexandra Diepsloot, Innercity, CBD, Yeoville, Hillbrow, and other areas within the city of Johannesburg.
 - e. `Gas handling
 - f. Raids in Eldorado Park, Wesbery, and Riverlea to dismantle drug dens and gangsterism.

- g. Road safety campaigns
 - h. Festive season and Easter weekend safety campaigns.
 - i. Inspections of spaza shops and shutting down illegal taverns.
15. JMPD TRU (JMPD tactical reaction unit) was established for the first time in the history of JMPD. The function of the unit is to deal with hijackings, kidnappings, cash in transit, drugs and gang-related crimes. The establishment of this unit became a force multiplier with SAPS and was deployed in areas with crime rates, such as CBD, Hillbrow, Yeoville, Roodeport, Laanglagte, Honeydew, etc. However, more work needs to be done in Ivory Park, Orange Farm and Jeppe.
 16. JMPD traffic pointsmen were hired to improve urban traffic flow, especially during load-shedding and traffic light malfunctions due to vandalism. The service level agreement for repairs and maintenance has been signed, so that maintenance can commence.
 17. On 08 August 2025, the Public Safety MMC in the City of Johannesburg, Councillor Dr Mgcini Tshwaku, through Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department (JMPD), transformed the law enforcement operations in the City of Johannesburg by launching cutting-edge electronic handheld devices and a state-of-the-art new vehicle fleet.
 18. Electronic Handheld Devices is a rugged, Android-based device that enables officers to issue notices within 2-3 minutes, Capture accident reports within 5 minutes, and identify stolen or fraudulent vehicles in real-time. The new fleet was the latest state-of-the-art vehicle fleet that will support the JMPD's operations, enhancing their ability to respond to emergencies and enforce traffic laws.
 19. The system links to NaTIS in real-time, **flagging stolen, fraudulent, or cloned vehicles**, and **identifying expired or false licenses**. This technology replaces handwritten notices, which reduces administrative workload, eliminates the cost of

physical books, and minimises officer errors. The devices are also equipped with GPS tracking for officer safety and productivity. The devices are equipped with GPS tracking for officer safety and productivity, also enabling officers to identify and respond to traffic violations more effectively. The JMPD's launch of electronic devices and a new vehicle fleet marks a significant step towards a smarter, more efficient, and safer Johannesburg.

20. Director Eldred Fortein was appointed to head our bylaw enforcement unit. The JMPD BMU is at the forefront of ensuring that bylaw enforcement employs all manner of measures to ensure that the set regulations of the city are observed. Its enforcement program incorporates regular patrols and focused operations, which also include the issuance of fines whenever there is a contravention of the bylaws. There are bylaws that can be enforced by JMPD alone without other departments, such as animal law, which regulates animal ownership, including pet registration and stray animal control. All other bylaws, such as informal traders, illegal dumping, Outdoor advertising, and illegal connection of water and electricity, fall under a different department.
21. One of the reasons that makes BMU ineffective is that all the JMPD are deployed to the other departments, and there is no accountability. Moving forward, all bylaw units will parade at the same point and will target an identified area. There will also be individual accountability; each officer and platoon is given a target to enforce the bylaw. The departments will have to request the services of JMPD formally from the director of the bylaw unit and be counter-approved by the Acting Chief of Police

FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES (EMS)

22. The Chief of Fire and EMS, Mr Andries Macuvele, was appointed to stabilise EMS. One Director, five station commanders, and academy tutors were appointed. The EMS uniforms and structural firefighting uniforms were issued. New cars and radios were issued. The dispatch time has improved since the introduction of the Automatic Dispatching System (AURA) to the EMS fleet.
23. During the financial year 2023, EMS adopted a new strategy for its approach to providing fire and rescue services. The strategy aligned with the pillars of the principles of the Fire Brigade Services Act requires fire services to deploy a proactive approach to prevent the outbreak of fires within the area of jurisdiction. The adoption replaced the previous approach of being reactive, which has since been observed as not effective and has not assisted in curbing the increase of fire incidents, especially in the CBD. The proactive approach has since been observed to be yielding results and has achieved a 10% decrease in the number of fire and rescue incidents during the financial year 2024/2025. The approach also saw a historical building compliance inspection of more than 6000 buildings within the City. Community empowerment and education on fire emergencies has also been increased, thus translating into decreased fire incidents in hot spot areas as well as minimised loss of life and damage to property in areas where these fires could not be prevented. The outcomes put the unit on a positive trajectory in relation to the strategic objective of reducing the number of fire incidents and reducing damage to loss of life and damage to property in instances where these fires cannot be prevented

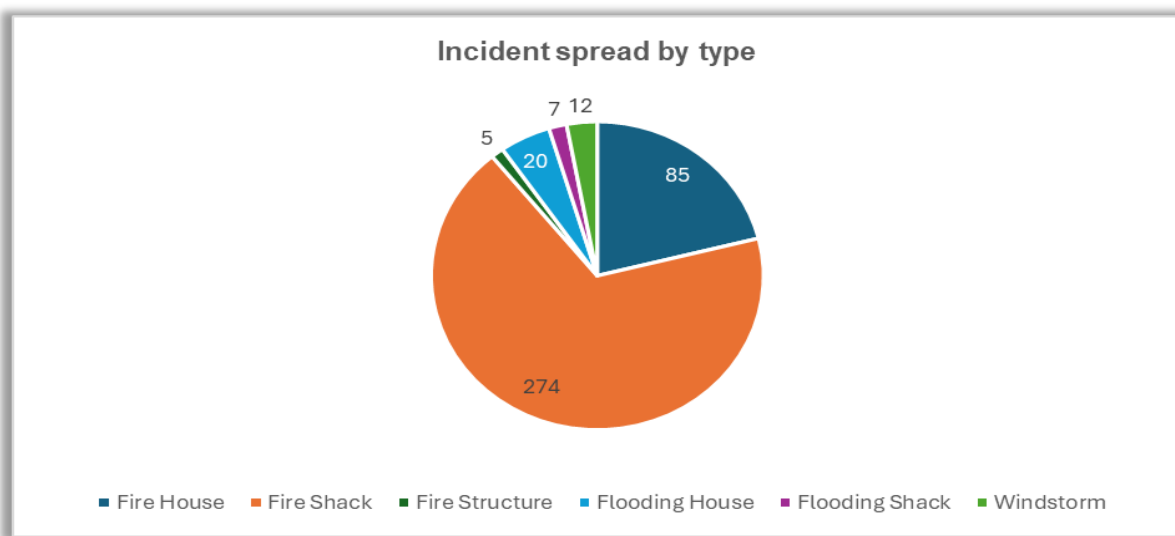
24. Opening of Central Fire Station and launch of new fire engines, over the past few years, EMS has been experiencing a decline in its fire and rescue vehicles due to its ageing fleet. In the financial year 2024/2025, the City concluded a procurement process for 15 fire and rescue vehicles. At this stage, 5 of those vehicles have been delivered, and the rest should be delivered before the end of the financial year 2025/2026. The delivery of these vehicles complements the completion of the brand-new Central Fire Station, which was opened by Public Safety MMC Dr Mgcini Tshwaku on the 2nd of October 2025. The delivery of these fire and rescue vehicles marks a milestone dating back to the first successful procurement process ever achieved in 2001. Any other attempt afterwards could not be positively concluded due to court challenges and or other irregularities identified, and they were all cancelled. The new fire engines are fully equipped with new technological fire and rescue equipment aligned to the new challenging risks identified, especially within the Inner City.
25. The old Central Fire Station, one of the city's earliest fire stations, built in the early 1900s and now a proclaimed heritage site, has fallen into disrepair due to high maintenance costs. A recent structural survey highlighted severe deterioration, especially on the southern side, where the foundation has begun to shift.
26. The facility will provide essential safety services to Johannesburg CBD and surrounding areas, significantly improving response times and house the city's eleventh BESAFE Centre, offering life and fire safety educational programs for residents. Some more key features include a swimming pool to be used for water safety education and training, in partnership with Swim SA, to teach young kids about water safety and a brand-new fire engine that will be deployed at the station, ensuring effective and professional emergency services.

27. As part of this facility, a brand-new state-of-the-art fire engine will also be delivered to the fire station. These new fire engines, together with other fire services support vehicles deployed at the station, will ensure that the residents receive the effective and professional emergency services they deserve
28. Fire safety campaigns and outreach programmes, in line with the new strategy of preventative approach, EMS has introduced an number of programmes which are aimed at Empowering, Education and capacitating the communities in dealing with fire emergencies, these are in a form of awareness campaigns, community education, school education as well as increased number of community outreach programmes such as water safety campaigns especially those areas affected by floods and drownings.
29. Staffing and equipment updates, over the years, EMS experienced challenges in filling critical positions as well as providing them with a full structural firefighting uniform. To date, EMS has managed to fill all its senior positions at both the level of the Chief, Directors and Deputy Directors. 90% of both Divisional Chief and Station Commanders positions are filled with the recent 10% outstanding, having been advertised together with the lower level of Platoon Commanders and Firefighters. The unit has also managed to procure full fire and rescue PPE, which ensures that all firefighters are properly kitted to face and handle any fire and rescue incident.
30. Challenges and improvement plans. Regardless of all the above achievements, EMS continue to strive to improve and battles to maintain its current staff, skills and other difficulties emanating from the current state of financial constraints, which limits the ability to fully implement the strategy

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

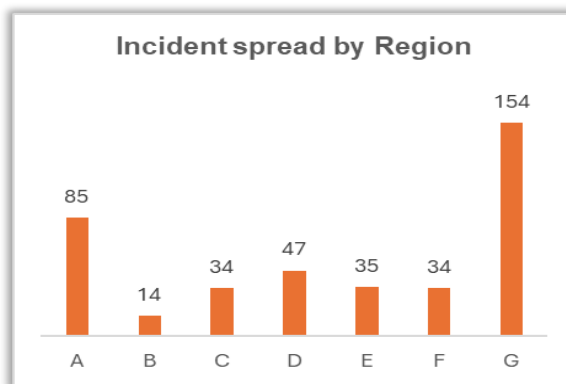
31. The 2024–2025 financial year marked a pivotal phase in the City of Johannesburg’s disaster risk governance journey. The City of Johannesburg Disaster Management Centre (CoJDMC) made significant strides in institutional development, risk assessment, disaster risk reduction (DRR), preparedness, and public engagement. This report reflects the city's commitment to building a resilient, inclusive, and proactive disaster management system aligned with national legislation, international frameworks, and local development priorities.
32. To date, the CoJDMC has achieved over 80% overall compliance with Critical Outcome 1 of the Level 1 Disaster Management Plan, focusing on foundational institutional arrangements:
33. Key achievements
 - **Executive Head Appointment:** An interim head is appointed while the institutional review process concludes.
 - **Disaster Management Centre:** The Operational sub-centre is established in Sandton, the Communication Sub-centre, Training Sub-centre, and administrative buildings are in Martindale. Additional administrative buildings are present in all seven regions as part of the city's decentralised operational structure.
 - **Tactical DRM Advisory Committee:** Integrated into the Executive Management Team.
 - **Enhanced the functionality of Municipal Advisory Forum:** Updated Terms of Reference to include virtual sittings and the establishment of risk-informed Technical Task Teams in line with the approved level 1 plan.

- **Regional Deployment:** Disaster teams redeployed to all seven regions to manage the activities of the Regional Interdepartmental Disaster Risk Management Committees.
 - **Ward-Based Forums:** Initiated to enhance civic-centric engagement.
34. The department has implemented the regional Disaster Risk Assessment and Monitoring
35. The centre conducted a citywide risk assessment, focusing on incident response and vulnerability profiling.



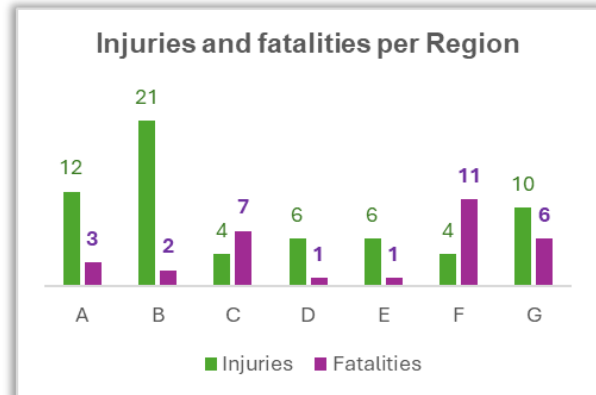
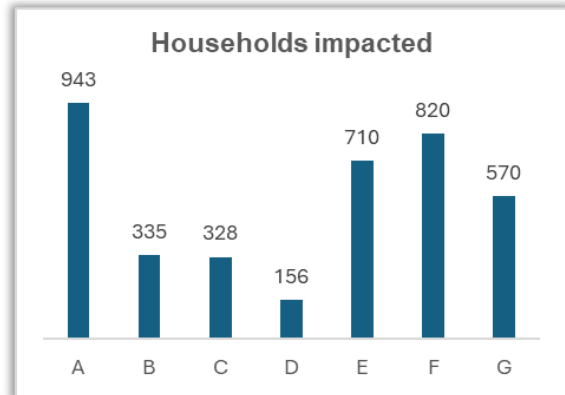
Key statistics for 2024–2025 include:

- 403 incidents recorded.
- 1185 structures damaged.
- 3862 households impacted.
- Fatalities: 41 across all regions.
- Injuries: 63 reported.



During this period, Regions A, F, and G had the highest number of fire incidents. Flooding was most prevalent in Regions A and G.

Impact (data is based on onsite verbal reports during incident assessments)



Disaster Risk Reduction projects

Disaster risks are assigned to risk owners for mitigation. Details of the projects will be provided in their reports. For context, some of the disaster risk reduction programmes/projects for the period were:

- **Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA):** Led flood mitigation and stormwater upgrades in flood-prone areas.
 - **City Parks and Zoo:** River cleaning and erosion control to alleviate flooding.
 - **Environmental and Infrastructure Services Department (EISD):** Climate Action Plan implementation.
 - **Emergency Management Services:** Building of fire stations to enhance response to fire-related incidents.
36. The introduction of the Preparedness, Response and Recovery, we have developed a Crisis Communication Matrix: This is developed to harmonise communication escalation roles and alignment with disaster response protocols. Simulation exercises: Conducted 47 business emergency evacuation drills as part of the Business Emergency Evacuation Programme, which includes Early Childhood development centres. The Response Centre responded to 403 incidents and coordinated the distribution and delivery of humanitarian relief to 3,862 households. Recovery post-disaster Efforts Included Enhanced data

recording and incident record management to build reliable information for planning purposes.

37. Launch of the Community Disaster Resilience Programme: Over 1,200 volunteers trained. Partnerships in action: With the assistance of non-governmental organisations and individual donors who supplemented the city's offerings, the Disaster Centre was enabled to assist the over 3500 households impacted by various incidents.
38. In conclusion, the 2024–2025 Annual Report reflects the Disaster Management Centre's transformation from reactive disaster response to proactive, science-informed risk governance. Through strategic planning, decentralised management of disaster risks, and continued building of stakeholder relations, the City of Johannesburg Disaster Management Centre is fostering a safer, more resilient future for all residents.

LICENSING DEPARTMENT

39. The Director and three Assistant Directors of licensing were appointed to stabilise the department, and several outreach programs were rolled out.
40. The introduction of the Smart Enrolment Unit (SEU) was launched at Sandton DLTC by MMC Dr Tshwaku on 16 January 2025. The SEU is the one-stop equipment encompassing all the Driver License Testing Centre (DLTC) bouquet of services in one unit. These include eye test, verification of applicants' real-time data through Home Affairs link or portal, processing of applications (renewal of Driver licence, Learners and Professional Driver's Permit (PrDP), payment and issuing of those Licences and permits at the central point of service. The benefits of the SEU initiatives include technological advancement in line with the City's Smart City initiative. The drastic reduction of Driver licence-related applications' lead time to less than 15 minutes. It works on real-time data, which serves as a counter against the scourge of fraud and corruption within our testing centres. The rolling out of SEUs to other DLTCs is currently underway, relying on the supply and availability of stock by RTMC (service provider).
41. New Computerised Learner's Licence Testing (CLLT): in the classes, improved with new HD surveillance cameras with voice recording and Biometric access control to fight against possible "writing on behalf of an applicant" activities when taking Learner tests is currently installed and piloted at Sandton DLTC as our model office. The system is under development with good intentions of promoting transparency in our processes and is also aimed at reducing corruption in our Licensing space. The rollout plan to other centres is in place, and the targeted

conclusion time of this project is June 2026; however, relying also relies on availability and supply by RTMC as the service provider.

42. Licensing Communication Platform: The Licensing section finally set up its communication platform in September 2024, which allows them to engage with clients, customers via email, Twitter (X) and Facebook account. This initiative gives a wide audience a chance to rate and comment on Licensing services, including a platform to address complaints and compliments. This platform will also showcase Licensing efforts to drive outreach campaigns and awareness to the public and its customers.
43. Transport Month: In 2005, during Transport Lekgotla, the month of October was declared Transport Month. The month is targeted to raise awareness on the important role of transport in the economy of this country and to promote and encourage participation from civil society and business, including the provision of a safe and more affordable, accessible, and reliable transport system in the country. The licensing section continues to promote this safety strategy not only in October, but for the rest of the 2nd quarter to ensure the impact achieves success.
44. Our Mobile Truck Services & Outreaches are part of the licensing Section, which is accessible to all 7 regions across the City. The mobile truck services have been instrumental in taking the services to disadvantaged areas where licensing services are a far reach for our clients, and the need for education and awareness is much needed for our clients and customers. Below is a breakdown of areas the mobile truck visited since last year and continues to do so monthly and upon request, Cosmo City Fire Station, Monte Casino, Nasrec Randshow, Randburg

Taxi Rank, Ivory Park, Orange Farm Community Centre, Roodepoort Taxi Rank, Bree Taxi Rank, and Tshepisong, to mention a few.

45. On the infrastructure improvements and signage updates, the implementation of repairs and maintenance projects as per approved demand and acquisition plan was delayed in the 1st Quarter of the current FY (2025-26) due to supply chain processes of sourcing City-core Panel of Service Providers. This process has now been finalised, and appointed contractors are currently conducting assessments to finalise. The actual implementation of R&M is anticipated to kick-start at the beginning of November 2025.
46. Signage & Compliance update, signage project in its entirety will fall under the consolidated R&M budget under the Facilities Management to cater for signage, yard markings at test centres, and to also ensure that the weighbridges and calibrations will be completed for compliance. The signage and road/yard markings are critical for the centres to be complete, as learner driver tests are booked daily, with a huge demand increasing every year for new competent drivers
47. Our Licensing Strategic Goals for 2025/2026 are to formalisation of Mobile services Unit (resource allocation) to cater for all regions in line with the revenue collection drive (Project Lokisa), operationalise all Vehicle Testing Stations to align with JMPD special operations under Safer City. (servicing and calibration), Refurbishment of Martindale Bulk Centre to cater for corporate clients and give them a customer experience that they deserve. The focus is also to intensify our communication strategy through educational programmes and marketing on our social media platforms, aligning with Active and Engaged Citizenry. At the

Sandton Marlboro DLTC, with a budget permissible, we are planning to move forward with a pilot test project initiative for an E-driving platform that will enhance driving test evaluations that monitor test routes, record the test and provide real-time GPS data via an iPad device in comparison to the old way of conducting driving tests.

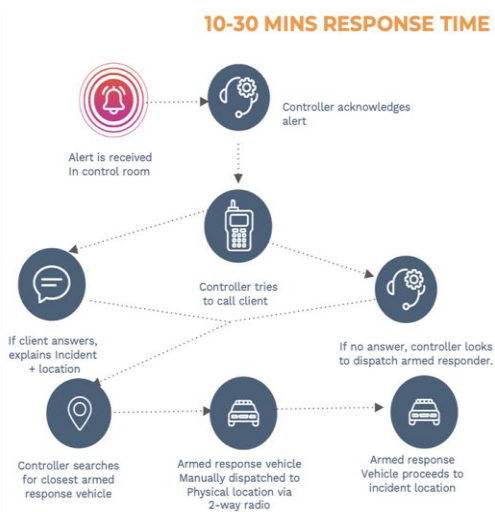
INTEGRATED INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS CENTRE (IIOC)

48. The city has implemented several technology-based interventions, including the installation of CCTV cameras and license plate recognition systems to detect and rapidly respond to crime, traffic, emergency, by-law and service delivery incidents. The city also operates a 24-hour emergency call centre, which residents can use to report crimes and emergencies.
49. Public Safety has deployed and operates a total of 570 CCTV cameras strategically placed in the identified crime hotspot areas in the Inner City, to capture high-resolution video footage and employ advanced video analytics for real-time event detection and recognition. This enables the city to promptly respond to incidents and ensure a safer environment for its residents. Since November 2024 to date, the IIOC has managed to have 561 cameras online and working. Challenges such as infrastructure vandalism, motor vehicle accidents, cable theft, and damage to fibre links continue to affect camera functionality. This impacts availability stemming from power-related issues on JRA & City Power infrastructure and the general power outages in the Area.
50. The CCTV cameras are actively monitored in a 24/7 CCTV Operation Centre located Martindale Public Safety Head Office. The city is also working in

collaboration with VumaCam, which provides an additional 6806 cameras to cover the areas where city-owned cameras may not be available.

51. The Public Safety through IIOC has launched the Automatic Dispatching System (AURA), which allows for the dispatch of escalated events to the JMPD and EMS fleet based on verified alerts out of JMPD’s IIOC to ensure seamless integration, timeous intervention and reduced security-related risk for JMPD. The will immediately reduce inefficient, immediate incident location, faster communication between parties, quicker response times from 10-30 to 1-5 response time due to coordinated response between emergency vehicles, ensures emergency services are more accessible, inclusive and effective and creating the ability to analyse events and understand dispatch and incident trends by allowing for the centralisation of the required dispatch across the various divisions within the City of Johannesburg to create an intelligent dispatch.

Traditional Response:



Integrated Dispatch Response



52. Based on the phase 1 deployment, PHASE 1, we have installed 553 JMPD vehicles out of the 694 planned, and we have installed 48 EMS vehicles with the devices out of the 54 planned installations.

53. Lastly, the IIOC is doing a proof-of-concept smart pole. A Smart Pole is an integrated, multifunctional urban infrastructure unit designed to enhance public safety, security, connectivity, and service delivery within the City of Johannesburg. It combines CCTV surveillance, connectivity and energy management technologies into a single streetlight or pole structure. The IIOC has implemented it as a Proof of Concept (POC) on two cameras (Camera 54 and Camera 226), which had been offline due to vandalism and lack of power. Following the installation, a total of five cameras were successfully brought back online.



The solution was implemented on 6th September and has proven to be sustainable. The performance of the smart pole systems for cameras 226 and 54 has been satisfactory, providing reliable power and enhancing the overall functionality of the cameras.

IN CLOSING

54. In closing, the launch of the #NomakanjaniManjeNamhlanje campaign marks a renewed commitment to strengthening crime prevention, by-law enforcement, traffic management, and revenue enhancement across the City of Johannesburg. This campaign is about reclaiming our city, restoring safety, order, and confidence in our urban spaces, particularly within the inner city, where crime has threatened economic stability and driven businesses away.

55. Today, we have highlighted our key initiatives and achievements in enhancing public safety and by-law enforcement. Yet, we acknowledge that more still needs to be done, hence the launch of #NomakanjaniManjeNamhlanje to amplify these efforts and ensure their effective implementation.
56. We call upon all stakeholders, residents, businesses, community leaders, law enforcement agencies, and private security partners to unite behind this initiative. Through collaboration, accountability, and active citizen engagement, we can build a safer and more resilient Johannesburg.
57. Above all, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to a safe, secure, and orderly city. The Department of Public Safety stands firm in its dedication to transparency, service excellence, and accountability. Together, we will continue to build a Johannesburg where every resident feels protected, empowered, and proud to call this city home because, as the saying goes, *a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.*

Thank you