



Dear Residents of Johannesburg,

The tragedy in Ormonde, where nine lives were recently lost, is not just an isolated incident, it is the direct consequence of a dangerous pattern we are confronting in our City: companies that place profit above people, and convenience above compliance. At the centre of our current enforcement actions is a property owner operating under New Order Investments. Our investigations have revealed a widespread pattern of non-compliance across more than 30 properties ranging from residential buildings to office parks and industrial sites. This is not negligence. It is a calculated disregard for the law, for human life, and for the authority of the City.

When companies ignore building regulations, bypass safety standards, and fail to pay for basic services, the consequences are not abstract, they are deadly. Unsafe structures collapse. Illegal electricity connections spark fires. Buildings are occupied before they are safe. These are the conditions that cost lives. This is why we have acted decisively. We have shut down non-compliant properties,

disconnected illegal water and electricity connections, and issued multiple closure and compliance notices.

We have also uncovered serious irregularities in building plan approvals, pointing to a deeper network of abuse that is now under formal forensic investigation. Let me be clear: companies that operate outside the law are not just breaking rules, they are endangering lives. That will no longer be tolerated in Johannesburg. We are pursuing full legal action against those responsible, and we will ensure that accountability is not selective. There will be consequences for those who exploit the system, ignore their obligations, and put residents at risk. But this is not about one company alone.

It is about sending a clear message to every property owner, developer, and business operating in our City: compliance is not optional. If you do not meet safety standards, if you do not pay for services, if you build and occupy illegally - you are putting lives in danger, and you will be dealt with. We are strengthening our enforcement capacity, closing regulatory loopholes, and increasing inspections across the City. We are also addressing the broader pressures that contribute to these conditions, including rapid urbanisation and infrastructure strain through programmes that expand access to safe housing and reliable services.

No level of urban pressure justifies lawlessness. No business interest justifies risking human life. The people of Johannesburg deserve safe buildings, lawful developments, and responsible property ownership. They deserve a city where rules are enforced, and where those who break them are held accountable. This administration will not hesitate. We will act. We will enforce. And we will protect because in Johannesburg, no company is above the law - and no profit is worth a life!

Until next time,

Johannesburg Executive Mayor Councillor Sello Dada Morero

