



A City Crying Out for Help: We Cannot Abandon Johannesburg

#ExecutiveMayor

Dear Residents of Johannesburg,

Since we started our High-Impact Service Delivery operation on Small Street on Monday, we have faced the hard truth: Johannesburg's heart is hurting, and we cannot turn away. The City will not retreat, we owe it to you to fight for order, dignity, and the hope that has been stolen from our streets. What we have found breaks the heart.

Another hard truth we must face is that too few South Africans own businesses in the inner city. Opportunity has slipped through the fingers of our people, and the faces behind shop counters and city enterprises rarely reflect the communities who have called Johannesburg home for generations. If we are to truly reclaim our city, we must ensure that South Africans are empowered to build, own, and thrive in the heart of Johannesburg. The city's prosperity must belong to its people.

Public walkways — meant for residents and commuters — are blocked. Dreams are trapped behind walls of neglect. Illegal connections spark constant danger. Overcrowding suffocates hope. We cannot accept this as normal in a city that should be alive with promise.

Johannesburg deserves better; her people deserve better. Our fight for the inner city is not against people, it is for them. It is about restoring dignity, bringing hope where despair has settled, and rebuilding the spirit of Johannesburg.

We want a city that is safe, clean, and alive again — a place where families can breathe easily and children can dream without fear. That is why I have written to the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans for urgent help. These challenges are too big for us alone. They demand unity, resolve, and the courage to ask for help.

Johannesburg cannot heal by itself. We need every hand, every heart. This is not a show for the cameras. It's a promise. We will not back down, and we will not stop until Johannesburg rises again. This is a fight for our city's soul, and we refuse to fail.

Next, we will move to Marble Towers. There, unsafe structures will come down, not out of anger, but out of love for this city and its people. Every action is a step towards reclaiming safety and dignity. We remain unafraid to confront lawlessness and criminality. But we cannot do this alone. We need the courage of residents, the voices of business, the hands of faith leaders, and the unity of communities.

We are deeply sorry for the pain, the neglect, the sense of abandonment so many have felt. Johannesburg was not meant to be broken. Reclaiming her will take courage. It will take all of us to turn the city's fortunes around. But I believe with all my heart that it is possible.

Until next time,

Johannesburg Executive Mayor Councillor Sello Dada Morero

