



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG
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SPEECH BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG, COUNCILLOR DADA MORERO CEO–CITY CLEANUP PROGRAMME AND BOMB SQUAD PROGRESS 13 NOVEMBER 2025

Members of the Johannesburg Bomb Squad,
Members of the media,
Fellow residents of Johannesburg,

Good morning.

Tomorrow, we begin a powerful and historic journey for our City — the CEO–City Cleanup Programme. This is more than an event. It is more than a campaign. It is a moment of truth for Johannesburg.

Today, I stand before you with a simple but urgent message: the time to restore Johannesburg’s glory has arrived, and we are doing it together. For years, our City has carried the weight of urban decay, service delivery backlogs, and eroded public trust. But Johannesburg is too important — economically, culturally and socially — to allow decline to define us. We are the beating heart of South Africa, and when Johannesburg rises, the whole nation rises with it.

This is why, in direct response to President Cyril Ramaphosa’s call for bold action and visible renewal, we have brought together the government and the private sector in a way our City has not seen in many years. The CEO–City Partnership Programme is a commitment to collective leadership, shared accountability and practical action. It is proof that when we unite government, business and communities, we unlock the real power of Johannesburg.

Tomorrow, Johannesburg’s top CEOs will roll up their sleeves and join our teams on the ground to take part in visible clean-up and revitalisation work across priority precincts. We begin in the Inner-City core and Braamfontein, then move to Hillbrow, Berea and Yeoville, and finally to Kliptown — the home of the Freedom Charter and the soul of our democracy. These precincts are economic engines, transport hubs, cultural centres and heritage landmarks. When they work, Johannesburg works.

This programme is strongly supported by the City’s Bomb Squad — our specialised implementation team that has been driving rapid, coordinated interventions across Johannesburg.

Their mission is straightforward: to fix what is broken, clean what is dirty, enforce where there is lawlessness, and restore dignity to our communities.

But let me be clear: this is not a three-day campaign. This is not a once-off activation for cameras. This marks the beginning of a sustained partnership that will transform the way we manage Johannesburg. It represents the foundation for public–private cooperation that is long overdue, and it is the first step in rebuilding a city that is clean, safe, functional and globally competitive.

To the CEOs who have answered this call, I extend my sincere gratitude. Your presence is more than symbolic. It demonstrates that leadership is not about position — leadership is about participation. To our officials, regional directors, frontline teams and the Bomb Squad, thank you for your hard work, dedication and unwavering commitment to restoring pride in Johannesburg.

And to the people of Johannesburg: this is your City. Please stand with us. Hold us accountable. Join us in protecting the spaces we are restoring. Johannesburg belongs to all of us, and its revival will come from all of us.

As we begin the CEO–City Cleanup tomorrow, let us carry one message into every street, every precinct and every community: One City. One Vision. One Partnership. Now let me report on the work of the Bomb Squad, Johannesburg’s Rapid Response Impact Team.

The Bomb Squad was established in June 2025 as a centralised hub for high-impact, high-visibility service delivery acceleration. In its first 100 days, the team has shown decisive leadership, seamless coordination and measurable improvements across the City’s service delivery ecosystem. Conceived as the Executive Mayor’s eyes and ears on the ground, the Bomb Squad has become the City’s fastest-acting mechanism, reducing the time between incident reporting and the final resolution of issues.

In this period, the team has achieved an 86 per cent resolution rate across 42 major escalations, processed 724 service cases, and completed 89 per cent of restorations on the same day — even in some of the most complex service environments across the metro.

The Bomb Squad operates through an Inside–Outside governance rhythm. Inside the organisation, the Daily and Weekly Mayoral Service Delivery and Finance War Rooms bring together the Executive Mayor, the City Manager, the COO and the heads of all municipal entities. These platforms help the City track revenue collection, which now exceeds R200 million per day, unblock capital expenditure challenges, and ensure that we are audit-ready, disciplined, and service-focused.

Outside the organisation, Street War Room interventions take senior leadership directly into communities. Through the “Show Up, Show Out” walkabout model, multi-department teams deliver immediate and visible progress — restorations that residents can witness and verify on the spot. This approach has united eight of the City’s key entities into a single, coordinated response system, ensuring that escalation, decision-making, and closure processes are fast, transparent, and verifiable.

The results of this work are visible across all Regions. In the Bara Precinct and Dobsonville in Region D, the Bomb Squad has restored parks, pruned overgrown trees, repaired sewers, removed illegal structures and rehabilitated bridges. In Yeoville and the De Villiers Street corridor in Region F, illegal electricity connections have been dismantled, and a seven-year water blockage was resolved within just 24 hours. Major deep-cleaning and precinct revitalisation efforts are underway. In Alexandra and Ivory Park in Region A, the Bomb Squad restored power to 1,200 households in a single day, supported progress on the BRT system along Rivonia Road, and reopened swimming pools and community sports facilities. In Roodepoort, Region C, illegal trading hotspots, scrapyards, and major dumping sites have been dismantled through coordinated enforcement operations.

Residents are already feeling these efforts.

Letters from the Rivonia Residents Association, the Westcliff Residents Association, and the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry reflect a rising confidence in the City's ability to respond, resolve, and restore. This is how trust is rebuilt — through results that people can see.

The Bomb Squad has also formalised new channels of cooperation with residents' associations and business chambers, ensuring that community concerns are escalated early, verified quickly and resolved transparently. Shared dashboards, more transparent communication and improved tracking tools are reinforcing this trust and providing accountability at every stage.

We remain honest about the challenges that lie ahead. Persistent backlogs, vandalism, illegal dumping and enforcement gaps continue to test the City. To address these challenges, we will expand our Communications Nerve Centre to ensure that all service delivery communications are evidence-led and transparent. We will strengthen by-law and enforcement reforms, including harsher penalties and expanded impoundment powers. We will intensify public-private partnership precinct pilots to help sustain clean-ups and infrastructure upgrades. We will continue our weekly War Rooms to maintain discipline and momentum on urgent services, including streetlights, potholes, sewer spills, and waste collection.

Let me state clearly: the Bomb Squad has introduced a new culture of urgency and accountability in Johannesburg. It has shown that when we coordinate, when we act together, and when we stay focused on results, progress can be made within hours — not months.

We also reaffirm that the Joburg Turnaround Plan continues decisively beyond major events like the G20. As outlined in the State of the City Address, the Turnaround Plan is the backbone of our service delivery renewal and the foundation upon which we are building a stronger, more capable City. The support we are receiving from residents inspires confidence and reminds us that we cannot — and we will not — fail the people of this great City.

Working together, we will restore Johannesburg's dignity, rebuild public trust and reclaim the greatness of our City.



Thank you. Let's get to work.

