



Securing Food, Strengthening Resilience

#Executive Mayor

Dear Residents of Johannesburg,

The City of Johannesburg is closely monitoring recent global developments and their impact on the cost of living, particularly food affordability across our communities.

Escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East are beginning to place pressure on global supply chains. These pressures are now filtering into the local economy through rising fuel costs, increased agricultural input prices, and disruptions to key export routes. As a result, the cost of transporting and producing fresh produce is increasing, with direct implications for prices at the market and for households.



Johannesburg occupies a central position in South Africa’s food system, with the Joburg Fresh Produce Market serving as the largest trading hub of its kind on the continent. The market plays a critical role in ensuring price transparency, maintaining supply stability, and enabling access to affordable fresh produce for both formal and informal sectors. Particular attention is being given to the informal trading sector, which remains essential to food distribution across the city. Informal traders are currently experiencing a dual pressure of rising operational costs—primarily driven by fuel increases—and reduced consumer purchasing power.

This dynamic has implications not only for business sustainability, but also for food accessibility in lower-income communities. The City recognises the importance of safeguarding this “last mile” of the food supply chain. In response, targeted interventions are being implemented to strengthen resilience within the system. These include the continued modernisation of the Joburg Fresh Produce Market to improve operational efficiency and reduce transaction costs, infrastructure upgrades to enhance the movement and storage of goods, and the introduction of digital systems to improve transparency and coordination across the value chain.

In addition, the City is expanding support for small-scale traders and agri-SMMEs, while advancing urban agriculture initiatives aimed at reducing reliance on long-distance supply chains and improving local food security. The City of Johannesburg’s Department of Economic Development has emphasised that:

“Sustaining affordable access to food requires deliberate municipal intervention, particularly in protecting informal traders and strengthening localised supply systems during periods of global volatility.”

This approach continues to guide the City’s response. While global conditions remain uncertain, the City of Johannesburg is committed to ensuring that its systems remain responsive, efficient, and inclusive. The objective is clear: to protect residents from excessive cost pressures and to maintain consistent access to affordable and nutritious food.

The City will continue to monitor developments, engage stakeholders across the value chain, and implement measures that strengthen both market stability and community resilience.

Johannesburg remains focused on delivering practical and sustainable solutions in the interest of all its residents.

Until next time,

Johannesburg Executive Mayor Councillor Sello Dada Morero

