



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG
METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

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EXECUTIVE MAYOR, CLLR DADA MORERO KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF BRIXTON RESERVOIR AND WATER TOWER- 29 APRIL 2026

Programme Director Honourable Minister for Water and Sanitation, Honorable Pemmy Majodina
Deputy Minister for Water and Sanitation, Honorable David Mahlobo
Gauteng Premier, Honorable Panyaza Lesufi
MEC for COGTA, Honorable Jacob Mamabolo
MMC for EISD, Cllr Jack Sekwaila
Members of the Mayoral Committee
City Manager, Dr Floyd Brink
Ward Councillor, Joburg Water Board, led by the Chairperson of Leadership of Johannesburg
Water, led by MD Ntshavheni Mukwevho and all the City Officials
Members of the Media Residents

Good morning,

It is a privilege to address you at the official launch of the Brixton Reservoir and Water Tower, a major step forward in Johannesburg's commitment to reliable and sustainable water services. This project addresses long-standing water supply challenges in Brixton, Crosby, and Hursthill, and is the result of strategic planning, investment, and collaboration.

The Brixton Reservoir and Tower Project includes:

- A 26 megalitre ground reservoir
- A 2 megalitre tower
- A 200 liters per second pump station
- And bulk pipelines that reconfigure and optimise the entire supply system

The new system improves infrastructure reliability, capacity, and flexibility. Storage has increased from 20 to 46 megalitres in the reservoir, and from 1 to 3 megalitres in the tower. This development forms part of the City's broader effort to strengthen water system fundamentals and meet future demand, despite financial constraints and competing priorities. Ongoing economic challenges have limited funding, but the City is implementing reforms to make Johannesburg Water self-sustaining, including alternative funding models.

Capital investment in Johannesburg Water has increased from R1.2 billion to R1.7 billion, with additional support from the Urban Settlements Development Grant, reflecting our commitment to water infrastructure. Despite this, the current budget cannot fully address the R27 billion backlog. The City, with support from National Treasury, is implementing strategies to make service entities self-sufficient. Service trading reforms have already been tabled in Council. We have proposed various strategic shifts to ensure the company operates as a ringfenced Entity.

This includes the following:

- Support by the City for the JW's 10-year Infrastructure Investment Plan;
- City support for a dividend model to support reinvestment of short to medium term surpluses and minimise cross-subsidisation;
- Group treasury support to reforms on sweeping arrangement to support liquidity requirements of JW and loans restructuring to optimise loan funding;
- Active collaboration between JW and Revenue Shared Services Centre (RSSC) to support collections and timely payments of customer receipts to JW;
- City support to the JW financial model, including increased operational expenditure to support water demand management and maintenance of infrastructure. This will ensure that the Entity is sufficiently capacitated to respond to the current and future challenges; and
- City support to alternative funding models for infrastructure, including tariff reforms to ensure cost-reflective tariffs.

These structured reforms will be outlined above and will secure sustainable water resilience for the City of Johannesburg's Key Programmes. Additionally, Johannesburg Water has identified various infrastructure investment programmes that are key to achieving the CoJ's strategic objectives. The focus is mainly on upgrading and renewing networks, expanding WWTW, reservoir storage capacity, and water demand management initiatives. These programmes will assist in improving efficiencies in the water supply and wastewater treatment systems.

The City of Johannesburg is fully committed to Water Demand and Conservation initiatives, as outlined in the Department of Water and Sanitation's 10 Point Plan. We are implementing these initiatives with disciplined execution, in coordination with national, provincial, and municipal stakeholders. Our own 10 Point Plan, as evidenced by the strides and progress we are seeing. We are not folding in the implementation of the programmes that have been identified, and I'm confident that the year 2027/28 financial year.

The City of Johannesburg and the Johannesburg Water team have now elevated the pipe replacement programme to the apex priority, over and above the 22 reservoirs being refurbished. This demonstrates that our reforms are delivering tangible benefits to the residents of Johannesburg. We extend our gratitude to the residents of Johannesburg for their patience during recent supply challenges, and to our partners in government for their ongoing support. This achievement reflects the dedication of the Joburg Water Team, led by Managing Director Ntshavheni Mukwevho.