



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG
METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

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Speech by the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg – Cllr Dada Morero Phase one Electric Vehicle charging station talking points

24 March 2026

MEC for Infrastructure, Hon Jacob Mamabolo

MMC for EISD Cllr Jack Sekwaila

MMCs present

City Power leadership led by Acting CEO, Charles Tlouane,

Members of the Board, led by Chairperson Makhosini Kharodi

Industry partners,

invited guests,

Residents of Johannesburg, thank you for joining us for what is truly a landmark moment for our city.

Today, we are not merely unveiling an Electric Vehicle charging station; we are inaugurating a future for Johannesburg that is cleaner, smarter, and more inclusive. This occasion marks the commencement of a new era, in which our energy transition transcends policy documents and conference discussions to become a tangible reality, manifesting in the day-to-day operations of the City. The installation of this charging station is a testament to our unwavering commitment to embedding sustainable innovation into the very fabric of Johannesburg's service delivery.

Just a few months ago, many of us gathered at the second City Power Energy Indaba, where, over two days, we engaged in some of the most honest and forward-looking conversations about what Johannesburg's energy future should look like. I spoke about moving away from a system defined by scarcity and inequality, toward one grounded in shared ownership, participation, and justice. Those discussions emphasised that our transition cannot be driven by technology alone; it must be driven by people, by communities historically left out of energy access, young people seeking opportunities, and families demanding affordable and reliable electricity.

Today's launch is the implementation of those commitments made at the Indaba. It shows that our city is not only serious about imagining a better future, but we are committed to building it. This Electric Vehicle Programme represents a structural leap in how Johannesburg delivers services. Our current fleet of vehicles for City Power has served us for years, but it has also contributed to rising fuel costs and unpredictable maintenance expenses. Through the introduction of electric vehicles and charging stations, we are not only modernising our fleet but also dramatically strengthening accountability, efficiency, and cost predictability.

The Electric Vehicle programme launched today is part of Johannesburg's broader strategy to modernise municipal operations while strengthening service delivery. By introducing electric vehicles and building charging infrastructure, the City is improving operational efficiency while reducing long-term costs and environmental impacts. The financial case is compelling. Through the transition to electric vehicles, City Power is positioned to realise substantial cost savings—up to R29.7 million per annum under a leasing

model, and as much as R49.3 million annually if the vehicles are acquired outright and amortised over a five-year period. These forecasts are underpinned by robust cost and performance modelling, grounded in thorough analysis of actual operational data. In a context where every rand must be judiciously allocated.

These savings will empower us to reinvest in essential infrastructure upgrades, enhance grid stability, and drive forward innovative community-level energy initiatives for the benefit of all residents. Beyond financial savings, the environmental benefits are profound. Once our fleet fully transitions, we will avoid more than 52,000 tonnes of carbon emissions each year. That is not just a statistic; It represents improved air quality for our communities, a significant reduction in harmful emissions, and meaningful progress towards fulfilling Johannesburg's ambitious climate obligations.

These advancements are expected to yield enduring benefits for public health and enhance the quality of life for all who reside in our city. But this programme goes beyond vehicles. It forms part of the City's broader 10-Point Energy Plan, which is already transforming how Johannesburg generates, manages, and secures power. Solar microgrids in informal settlements, solar street lighting in communities, rooftop solar on public facilities, revived gas turbines for emergency backup, and growing investments in battery storage; all these initiatives move us closer to an energy-secure, future-ready Johannesburg.

The EV Programme strengthens this work. It supports our Smart City ambitions and accelerates our economic strategy by building pathways for new industries, new skills, and new jobs. And it positions Johannesburg not as a follower but as a continental leader in the green mobility sector. This means that our energy transition must always remain people-centred. It must create opportunities for young people to participate in emerging industries, empower entrepreneurs to develop innovative solutions, and ensure that communities across Johannesburg benefit from the transformation of our energy systems. Our city's future must be inclusive. At the Indaba, our young people made that message clear.

I will never forget hearing a learner from Kwa-Bhekilanga High School describe renewable energy as "a gift that never runs out." Those words reminded us that this transition belongs to generations that will inherit the city we build today. This EV programme rollout is one of the steps we are taking to leave them a cleaner, fairer, more sustainable Johannesburg. To City Power's leadership and Board, thank you for driving this transition with urgency and innovation.

To our MMCs, thank you for steering our energy and infrastructure agenda with dedication. And to every partner here today, community members and leaders, thank you for being part of this new chapter. Johannesburg is in the midst of a profound transformation. The launch of this Electric Vehicle Programme marks a decisive step towards establishing a cleaner, smarter, and significantly more resilient city. This initiative serves not only as a clear indication of our strategic direction but also as a benchmark for what can be accomplished when vision, innovation, and collective resolve align to pursue the greater good for all who call Johannesburg home.

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