



**OPENING ADDRESS BY EXECUTIVE MAYOR, CLLR DADA MORERO ON
THURSDAY, 29 JANUARY 2026 AT CONNIE BAPELA CITY OF JOHANNESBURG
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BRAAMFONTEIN, JOHANNESBURG**

Honourable Speaker of Council, Cllr Margaret Sheron Arnolds

Honourable Chief Whip of Council, Cllr Khazamula Chauke

Members of the Mayoral Committee

Honourable Councillors

City Manager and the Administration

Fellow South Africans

Guests in the Gallery

Ladies and Gentlemen

Comrades and compatriots

Dumelang!



Hello



MADAM SPEAKER,

Please allow to me to once again greet the people of Johannesburg. Compliments and all the best for 2026. This year is a special year. It is an election year, and we should not politicise service delivery.

Furthermore Madame Speaker, I would like to thank my fellow councillors and the people of Johannesburg for coming together and making G20 a success. History will show that Johannesburg was indeed the home of the African G20.

We must also thank our President, His Excellency, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa for giving us this opportunity to host this important event. His strategic insight and hands on approach demonstrated South Africa capacity to lead the world and show that it is possible to:

1. Foster mutual support and ensure that no country is left behind. ***We call this solidarity.***
2. Promote fair opportunities across gender, race and geography, alongside reforming international financial architecture and addressing debt distress. ***This we call it equality.***
3. Drive climate-responsive economic systems, renewable energy, and in particular, leveraging the energy transition for industrialisation in Africa. ***This is sustainability.***

Thank you, Mr President, for trusting us with this important task.



FELLOW COUNCILLORS

The people of Johannesburg have been telling us something is happening in Johannesburg. They are free to walk in the inner city with their phones. The Joburg grime is slowly disappearing; and there is law and order in the City. Through the Mayoral High Impact Service Delivery Programme, we are seeing change. The work of the Bomb Squad is being appreciated by society. The CEO City Cleanup partnership attracted a lot of positive responses. We even saw the District Development Model (DDM) in action. National-led by the President, provincial, business, community and media all came together to clean Johannesburg. This was a first of its kind in Johannesburg.

COUNCILLOR S MARAIS (DA),

You complained about halls that are rented out, alcohol is being used excessively on the premises during weeknights when children are utilising the hall. We responded and we are currently ensuring the enforcement of Chapter 3 of the Recreation and Sport by-laws to ensure a safe environment, particularly when children are present.

COUNCILLOR MAZIBUKO FROM THE DA,

As you are aware, that we have resolved the list of all verified works in Johannesburg Art Gallery and ensured their safe relocation. Furthermore, the City entered into a collaboration agreement with Standard Bank SA which enabled collaborations on exhibitions. Progress to date there are 9 Artworks that were exhibited at the Standard Bank Art Lab based at the Nelson Mandela Square, Sandton - Opened on the 14th of October 2025.



MMM FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MS NOMOYA MNISI AND MMC FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, MS EUNICE MGCINA. You both worked as a team to ensure the protection of critical planning document. Thank you for decanting of the Department of Planning and ensuring it relocated to the Newtown Building.

CLLR ENNIE MAKHAFOLA,

Thank you for carrying out that outreach programmes focusing on vaccinating children who are having difficulty to reach facilities, including locating and contacting unvaccinated children in the community. You are saving lives and help us to develop a healthy society.

FELLOW COUNCILLORS

Joburg Water is hard at work and ensuring that we resolve all water issues. Currently the water supply challenges are resolved. Johannesburg Water's multi-year capital programme includes reticulation upgrades in the Soweto region, which encompasses the Senoane area. These upgrades fall under the City's broader water infrastructure renewal strategy aimed at replacing ageing pipelines, improving pressure zones, and strengthening supply to essential public facilities, including clinics.

FELLOW JOBURGERS

Yesterday I read a letter addressed to Dr Snuki Zikala from Dr Bheki Shongwe showing appreciation and continued partnership in advancing a clean and beautiful Johannesburg. In this letter, Dr Shongwe states the following:



"On behalf of South Africa Day, I hereby express our sincere appreciation for the confidence you have shown in our work, particularly in recognising the value of community-led cleaning and beautification initiatives. We are especially grateful for the time you dedicated to personally participate in the cleaning and beautification programme in Sophiatown. Your presence and leadership underscored government's commitment to fostering clean, dignified, and sustainable communities. We further extend our sincere appreciation for your continued support of South Africa Day's initiatives. Kindly also convey our gratitude to the Executive Mayor for the support consistently received from the City of Johannesburg towards our cleaning and beautification programmes."

Recently, I also read an article, where residents of Ward 120 in Lenasia South expressed their views by stating:

"We are now breathing a sigh of relief after a high-impact service delivery programme was held in our area. The programme under the facilitation of Mayor Dada Morero, aimed to address pressing infrastructure and maintenance challenges in the region."

CLLR ZUNGU, you and the Bomb Squad you are working. Please keep up the good work. Your efforts are yielding results and for this we thank you.



FELLOW COUNCILLORS,

Let us focus and conclude the work of council. The people of Johannesburg of Johannesburg depend on us.

ONCE AGAIN, LETS US NOT POLITICISE SERVICE DELIVERY.

THANK YOU!