



**VOTE OF THANKS AND CLOSING REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR, CLR.
SELLO 'DADA' MORERO AT THE WREATH LAYING CEREMONY, HECTOR
PIETERSON MEMORIAL SITE, SOWETO ON 16 JUNE 2026**

YOUR HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT RAMAPHOSA,

Please allow me to rise on the established protocol.

300 years of systemic oppression. 46 years of institutionalised Apartheid and 50 years of remembering the class of 1976. We have a lot to be thankful about. The youth of 1976, reminded us that we have the power to stand up, solve our problems and define the future we want to see. For this we must be thankful. Every household in Soweto has a veteran who lived and experienced this day. Their courage and wisdom lives within us. They too have multiplied.

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

We must thank the class 2026. Look around you, they have come today to remember this day. This youth is very important to the residents of Johannesburg. Last year they told us about the Johannesburg they want to see. We listened and today they are experiencing the City they defined. A lot more still needs to be done, and we thank them for their patience and understanding.

MR PRESIDENT,

Your leadership continues to inspire us. Not so long ago we too were young people. We made mistakes but it is your guidance that reminded us why we are here. Today we are serving by your side. At no point did you give up on us. For this reason, we are grateful for your words of wisdom. Thank you for mapping for the strategic direction for youth development. We heard you and we shall implement. Watch this space.



TO OUR PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

As the people of Johannesburg, we stand in full support of our national and provincial leaders. Today we demonstrated the power of unity, collaboration and making a difference. Your decisive leadership reminded us of all our challenges and achievement. All of this you do on the shoulders of Teboho "Tsietsi" Mashinini, Hastings Ndlovu and Hector Pieterse. For this we thank you. Let us continue building on this moment by using the District Development Model as our springboard for accelerated implementation in support for youth development in South Africa.

FELLOW COUNCILLORS

We see you. Let us remain accountable to the youth of Johannesburg. We see you, they see you and thank you. Our work is clear. Now is the time to close ranks and deliver on the promised future. We have laid the foundation and the future remains bright. Young people have access to water, electricity, sanitation, transport and internet in Johannesburg. All they want is jobs. This request must be implemented. For every action we take, a job must emerge.

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Johannesburg is the heartbeat of Africa. We exist because of the partnership we have in place. For many years we have walked this journey with the National Youth Development Agency and the June 16 Foundation. We must thank them for their commitment to this course.

Lastly to all our partners and stakeholders, we would like to thank you for your commitment and love for the City of Johannesburg. This is your City. It is our City. Let us remain on this developmental path of growth and prosperity. Till we meet again. Continue to make us proud.