



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG
METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

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Welcome Remarks by the Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, Cllr Dada Morero

GAUTENG INVESTMENT CONFERENCE 2026

**Programme Director,
Honourable Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Paul Mashatile,
Honourable Premier of Gauteng, Mr Panyaza Lesufi,
Honourable Members of the Executive Council,
Distinguished Ministers and Deputy Ministers,
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Leaders of business, investors, development finance institutions, and partners,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the City of Johannesburg, it is my distinct honour to welcome you to the Gauteng Investment Conference 2026. It is a privilege for Johannesburg to host this gathering at a pivotal moment—when the trajectory of African economic growth is being shaped by strategic investment, infrastructure development, and deeper regional integration.

Johannesburg has long been the economic gateway of Southern Africa, and today, it stands as the financial, industrial, and logistics hub that seamlessly connects African markets to global capital. However, we recognise that the next phase of growth demands deliberate, strategic partnerships among government, business, and investors. This conference is, therefore, a testament to our collective ambition. It signals unwavering confidence in Gauteng as Africa’s premier investment destination. It affirms belief in the resilience and immense potential of our economy.

Most importantly, it reflects our shared commitment to transforming opportunities into bankable projects—projects that drive growth, create jobs, and broaden economic inclusion.

Today’s discussions focus on the sectors that will define the next chapter of Gauteng’s development: infrastructure investment, digital industries, manufacturing, logistics, tourism, and urban regeneration. These are not abstract priorities; they are the bedrock of a modern, competitive regional economy. As the City of Johannesburg, we are steadfast in our commitment to creating the conditions that attract and sustain investment. This entails strengthening infrastructure delivery, enhancing the investment climate, and forging partnerships that unlock new economic activity across our city.

We are improving the ease of doing business by streamlining processes, reducing bureaucratic delays, and enhancing cross-departmental coordination. We are prioritising infrastructure maintenance and renewal, recognising that reliability is as critical as expansion. Through the Johannesburg Property Company, we are unlocking strategic land parcels and bringing prime locations to the market for catalytic development.

Furthermore, we are advancing reforms to trading services in partnership with the National Treasury to galvanise support for addressing Johannesburg's R270 billion infrastructure backlog.

We are also investing in inner-city regeneration, transforming underutilised spaces into vibrant economic nodes that attract both investment and people. Investors demand certainty, credibility, and capable institutions. Our duty as government is to build and sustain these essential foundations. This conference, therefore, comes at a defining moment. Across Gauteng, we are actively unlocking large-scale infrastructure pipelines, catalytic property developments, digital economy investments, and industrial expansion opportunities that will shape the region's economic trajectory for years to come. Yet investment is not solely about capital.

It is about building partnerships that expand opportunity for our people and communities. It is about fostering innovation that enhances productivity and competitiveness. Above all, it is about positioning Gauteng and Johannesburg as globally connected economic centres within the African continent. Gauteng remains the economic heart of South Africa and one of the most dynamic metropolitan regions on the continent. With the leadership of the Premier, the support of the national government through the Presidential Working Support Package, and the participation of investors and partners gathered here today, we are confident that the engagements at this conference will translate into real investment commitments and tangible economic impact.

I wish you productive deliberations and impactful engagements throughout the day. And once again, on behalf of the City of Johannesburg, welcome to the Gauteng Investment Conference 2026.

Thank you.