

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY DADA MORERO DURING THE 30TH EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ON 16TH OF AUGUST 2024, AT THE CONSTANCE BAPELA COUNCIL, METROPOLITAN CENTRE, BRAAMFONTEIN

Greetings to Madam Speaker and our Chief Whip of Council.

Greetings to Minister Parks Tau.

Greetings to the Premier Panyaza Lesufi and Members of his Cabinet.

Greetings to all leaders of political parties present today.

- *Sivuyile Ngodwana: AIC Deputy President & MMC in Ekurhuleni*
- *Inkosi Buthelezi: IFP Deputy President & Minister for Public Services & Administration*
- *Sasabona Manganye: GLU Chair*
- *Nkululeko Dunga: EFF Provincial Chair*
- *Moshe Koma: EFF Provincial Secretary*
- *Alderman Alco: Ngobese IFP Provincial Leader*
- *Mzwandile Masina: ANC MP*
- *Nonceba Gcaleka-Mazibuko: Former Speaker of Council & ANC MP*
- *Herman Mashaba ActionSA: President & Former Executive Mayor COJ*
- *Funzela Ngobeni: ActionSA Provincial Chair & MPL*
- *Matshidiso Mfikoe: ANC Gauteng MPL*
- *Mbali Hlophe: ANC Gauteng MPL*
- *Solly Msimanga: DA Provincial Leader*
- *Solly Mkhize: PA Provincial Secretary*
- *Herman Radali: Progressive Professionals Provincial Chair*

Fellow Councilors, Dumelang.

Greetings to the administrative leadership of the City.

Fellow Joburgers, mholweni, hello, sanibonani, dumelang, absheng.



Hello

Akahlulwa luth'uJesu Akahlulwa lutho Akahlulwa luth'uJesu Akahlulwa lutho
(UJes'akohluleki)

Akahlulwa luth'uJesu Akahlulwa lutho Akahlulwa luth'uJesu Akahlulwa lutho
(Ndenze nkosi yami)

Ndenze Baba ndikusebenzele Ndisesemhlabeni Ndenze Baba ndikusebenzele
Ndisesemhlabeni

I should have done this during my first acceptance speech in September 2022. Maybe I
would have stayed longer than 25 days.

Allow me to acknowledgement of former Executive Mayors including those who are late.

MADAM SPEAKER,

U moya wami uya vuma!

TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA,

As guided by our Constitution, Act 108 of 1996, let us remember that:

We are the people of South Africa.

We must continuously recognise the injustice of our past.

We must honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land.

We must respect those who have worked to build and develop our country.

We, must believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it.

We are united in our diversity.

TO THE RESIDENTS OF JOHANNESBURG.

We must remember that we are winners.

We are winners because many people want to live in our City.

We are winners, because we love Johannesburg. It is the place we call home.

It is our first love.

FELLOW COUNCILLORS

Let us pause and reset.

Reset does not mean; we start from scratch. It means we acknowledge our mistakes, and we must apologise where we have failed the people of Johannesburg.

It also means that we must celebrate our good story and indeed, we do have a good story to tell.

The people of Johannesburg tasked us with basic duties of making sure that:

1. Water comes out their taps.
2. Lights come on.
3. Waste is collected.
4. Robots work.
5. Busses operate efficiently.
6. People live in safe communities.

This is not too much to ask for.

The people of Johannesburg are depending on us for a better future.

We have all gone through pain and sorrow. But we are wiser and stronger now. We must help the City to move beyond its complex challenges and find simple solutions that remind the people of Johannesburg, why Johannesburg we will always remain our first love.

MADAM SPEAKER

Please allow me to talk about the 2024 moment. This is a significant moment for all South Africans. It is the moment, where all South Africans interfaced with our democratic political system. This interaction resulted in a strong message that symbolised, destruction and unity. This signal changed our political landscape.

Today marks the realignment of the Government of Local Unity (GNU). We cannot ignore election outcomes. We are public servants, and we must listen to the voice and/or the silence of the people we serve. Sun Tzu in the Art of War, presents us with his warrior philosophy that states:

“Generals are assistants of the nation. When their assistance is complete, the country is strong. When their assistance is defective, the country is weak.”

Like generals, politicians are assistance of the nation. Our conduct determines the strength of the nation.

The 2024 moment calls for a reset. Johannesburg is the heartbeat of South Africa. To keep South Africa alive, we must implement the District Development Model (DDM). Alone we will not solve problems affecting Johannesburg. We call upon the Gauteng Provincial Government, to help us to implement our service delivery programme that change lives.

We call upon National Government, to effectively utilise Section 154 of Constitution. Policy planning coordination is critical to the success of Johannesburg. The National Department of Corporative Governance supported by the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) shaped our private sector framework. This relationship is assisting us to address out technical challenges. We must accelerate implementation.

Business and civil society are central to our developmental agenda. Without them economic growth will not happen in Johannesburg. Growing the economy of Johannesburg must happen within the context of the DDM. As a minimum programme, for all of us, we must use the 2024/25 financial year to stabilise local government. By doing this, our economy will grow faster, young people will be in jobs, basic services will be enjoyed by all, and transformation will happen at a faster pace.

MADAM SPEAKER

Please allow me to repeat:

“The 2024 moment requires us to listen.”

We are the sphere of government that is the closest to the people. We must plan with our communities. This Constitutional responsibility requires all of us to move together. Our leadership change since 2016, has been disruptive and we cannot continue on this disruptive path. Cities are meant to be developmental, resilient and sustainable because they shape the form of societies.

TO MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA

We do not talk enough about the formation of Johannesburg. When Johannesburg was formed, the apartheid government deliberately built a spatial design that was not inclusive. When democratic local government happened in Johannesburg, we tried to break this pattern. Our land space is amongst the smallest in South Africa, and our population is the biggest and it will continue to grow. We must rise above our day-to-day challenges, so that we can reimagine a Johannesburg that is inclusive, colourful and full of love.

Joburg 2040 was supported by all, including political parties. Therefore, our path remains. We must continue to make Johannesburg a World Class African City of the Future. Our City must remain vibrant, equitable and it must be strengthened through its diversity.

FELLOW RESIDENTS OF JOHANNESBURG

I think it is ok to continue where we left off. Collectively:

1. We started implementing our energy sustainability strategy that tried to ensure the delivery of conventional power and integrate new distributed energy generation and energy storage facilities into the energy mix. The big idea is to reduce our reliance on generating capacity from Eskom. This new energy mix is designed to relieve the pressure on Eskom, and not to make the situation worse. ***This positive step must be supported.***
2. We agreed to keep the City clean. This meant making the City functional by keeping the lights on, improving uninterrupted mobility and protecting the environment by implementing programmes that focus on:
 - Litter picking – public spaces
 - Clearing illegal dumping
 - Grass-cutting programme
 - Recycling programme
 - Reeds and wetland maintenance
 - Pollution prevention

3. We agreed that we have a job crisis affecting most our youth. Their challenges range from unemployment, lack of skills, and safety. Youth development in City is non-negotiable. They are our future, and they must experience their future now.

TO THE ADMINISTRATION

Council entrusted you with a fully funded Integrated Development Plan worth R83.1 billion. Your task is simple and please do not fail us. We want to see:

1. The Central Park development in Albertville, a monumental project set to deliver over 5,000 dwelling units, valued at R5 billion.
2. The groundbreaking international data centre.
3. The building of Lanseria Smart City, estimated to accommodate 3 million people. This city space must become a reality in our lifetime.
4. Substantial investments supporting infrastructure such as sewer, water, roads, stormwater and electricity signify our commitment to sustainable growth.
5. The R160 million investment over the medium-term towards projects aimed at improving access to the City and its amenities for people living with disabilities.
6. Efforts must be made to shield our communities from financial pressures and shocks, we must be mindful that we do not operate in isolation.
7. Partnerships that help us to build investor confidence and to build a stable and resilient City government in service of and for the people.

MADAM SPEAKER

Time is not on our side. Consultations were done and I promised not to delay the announcement of the Mayoral Committee. Good women and men will be deployed. These men and women must assist us to reset and build our colourful City.

1. Community Development	Clr. Kabelo Gwamanda
2. Development Planning	Clr. Eunice Mngcina
3. Economic Development	Clr. Nomoya Mnisi
4. Environment, Infrastructure and Service Delivery	Clr. Jack Sekwaila
5. Group Corporate and Shared Services	Clr. Loyiso Masuku
6. Group Finance	Clr. Margret Arnold
7. Health and Social Development	Clr. Ennie Makhafola
8. Housing	Clr. Mlungisi Mabaso
9. Public Safety	Clr. Mgcini Tshwaku
10. Transport	Clr. Kenny Kunene

FELLOW SOUTH AFRICANS

As I conclude, let us reflect on the statement made by our President, during his Opening of Parliament Address on the 18th of July 2024, President Ramaphosa said:

“From our largest metros to our deepest rural areas, we have a clear intention to turn our country into a construction site, as roads, bridges, houses, schools, hospitals and clinics are built, as broadband fibre is laid and as new power lines are installed.”

Let us all take out our phones and tell the world that Johannesburg is now a construction site.

THANK YOU!