

## **STUDENT COUNCIL BREAKFAST**

### **Greetings To:**

- His Worship, the Executive Mayor – Cllr Geoffrey Makhubo
- Chief Whip of Council: Cllr Solomon Mogase
- Chair of Chairs: Cllr Salphina Mulauzi
- Chairperson of the Section 79 oversight committee responsible for Environment and Infrastructure Services: Cllr Matshidiso Mfikoe
- MMC for Group Corporate and Shared Services – Cllr Loyiso Masuku
- MMC for Community Development – Cllr Margaret Arnolds
- Cllr Mpho Sesidinyane
- Junior Speaker of the Student Council – Shumikazi Radebe
- Junior Mayor of the student council - Katlego Matsaba
- The Teachers and Pupils from Lufhereng Secondary School
- The Teachers and pupils from Meadowlands High School
- All the newly elected leaders of the Council
- All our lovely parents
- All our visitors from other schools
- All officials
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning,

1. Thank you all for waking up very early this morning to join us for this very important occasion. It is not only great to officially meet the newly elected young leaders of the Johannesburg Student Council, but it is even better to meet the people, the parents behind these young leaders.
2. As the saying goes, behind every young child who believes in him / herself, is a parent who believed in them first, so a big well done to our parents today - you've done a great job with these young leaders.
3. A few weeks back (last week of March to be precise), we will remember that the JSC elections took place at St Barnabas college. Unfortunately, I was ill at that time and was unable to join the proceedings, and as a result, was unable to welcome you into the city council officially.
4. So in light of this, it was very important to me that this breakfast happens, and we have been trying to organise it for a while now, but due to competing priorities in my office, we have had to move it out to today.
5. But be that as it may, I am very proud of these young people because even though I could not officially meet them on the day they were elected, when I did finally get to meet and interact with them, it was on the ground. Yesterday we were introducing them to communities via our civic education engagements, and

they all got an opportunity to share their vision for their term of office.

6. Suffice to say that they aced it. Each one of them did very well, and left a great impression, so I must say that I love the spirit of these young people. That is what leadership is about. That is what leaders do. Leaders do not wait to be acknowledged first, they get into the trenches when the need arises, and they lead from the front. And that is how I know that this group of leaders are natural born leaders, lets give them a round of applause.
7. What they reflected yesterday were qualities of true servant leadership. Servant Leadership means that you are a servant first. You are serving your community, and you are serving humanity first before humanity serves you. A servant leader cares. He / She loves. They put other people's needs above their own and enable others to grow, develop and perform to the best of their ability.
8. A servant leader listens, is empathetic, heals the emotional, spiritual and environmental wounds of others. They are pre-occupied with building the community, and if yesterday is anything to go by, servant leadership is what I see in each and every one of you sitting here.
9. However, Leadership is not easy. There are tough times, and the urge to quit visits a leader every now and again. Leaders also have to face their fear of failure. Sometimes even the people that you lead, begin to

doubt you, but as a leader you must remain focused on your end goal.

10. So as you navigate this journey I want to say to you, you must always be brave, you must be courageous, you must face your fears head on. As a leader you must never lose hope, you must always remain positive. And if you fall, get yourself back up and try and again... and try again... and try again.. and again... You never stop trying.
11. I came across a quote whose author is unknown and it reads: **“Behind every great leader, at the base of every great tale of success, you will find an indispensable circle of trusted advisors, mentors, and colleagues”**. This really sums up the reason for the existence of the Johannesburg student council. Ours as the City of Johannesburg is to nurture the young leaders of tomorrow today.
- 12 This is also part of succession planning because we, the older generation, are not going to be around forever. So we need to ensure that we groom a layer of young leaders that will take over from us. Ours is to advise, and mentor, and in the process of doing so, turn these young leaders into our future colleagues in Council.
- 13 One of my biggest priorities as the Speaker of Council is Civic Education to ensure an engaged active citizenry. So having these young leaders today is going to assist us because they then also go back to the community and share the knowledge that they learn about council.
- 14 Another one of my priorities is taking council to the people. Everybody, but young people in particular, need to know, and understand the work of Council, and you are going to

be very instrumental in helping the Legislature to implement this priority.

- 15 By reaching out to your communities and being great ambassadors of City in your communities, whilst also being ambassadors of your communities in the City council, you will be contributing greatly to this priority. I must also say that I am happy with the some of the work that you have already started doing.
  - 16 So parents I would like you to know that we are committed to your child's growth just as much as you are, and thank you for sharing them with us. To our visitors from Lufhereng and Meadowlands High Schools, we hope that you are inspired to join the student council and share with your colleagues in the education sector that we want more young people on board.
  - 17 Ladies and gentlemen, as a parting shot, I am very happy to eventually meet and greet the new co-hort of Student Council Leaders. I wish you all the very best in your term of office. Make us proud. Lead in love, in faithfulness and in truth, and always remember, that to Lead is to Serve. I love you all...
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