

2010 Liveable Communities International Award

08 November 2010

Statement by the Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, Clr Amos Masondo, on the occasion of the media briefing to celebrate the City Parks 1st place Gold Award 2010 Liveable Communities International Award, Metro Centre, Mayoral Parlour, Braamfontein – Johannesburg

Programme Director

MMC for Corporate and Shared Services and Environmental Management: Clr

Matshidiso Mfikoe

Members of the Mayoral Committee

Fellow Councillors

City Manager: Mr Mavela Dlamini

Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Johannesburg City Parks: Mr

Maropeng Bahula

Managers and Officials of Council

The Media

The City of Johannesburg has done it again. It is indeed a pleasure to announce that the Johannesburg City Parks has received the Liveable Communities (LivCom) 2010 International Awards 1st Place Gold Award, in Chicago, in the United State of America.

City Parks competed with forty two (42) other contestants from different countries for the most liveable city with a population of over 3 million. The Johannesburg City Parks was presented with the 1st Place Gold Award for the "Bridging the Green Divide- 2010 Greening the City Campaign". A project that we initiated in 2006, where 12 000 learners joined the City's political and administrative leadership in planting 6000 trees in 12 minutes.

The LivCom Awards are endorsed by the United Nations as an Environmental Programme. It is a platform that recognises environmental best practice at municipal level. It acts as an information sharing forum for municipal role players in greening, recreation and cemetery management.

LivCom Awards measures projects based on, amongst others the following criteria:

- The enhancement of the natural built landscape;
- The incorporation of the arts, culture and heritage in open space development;
- Environmental best practice;
- Community involvement and empowerment , such as job creation;
- The project's contribution to a healthy lifestyle; and
- The strategies employed by municipalities in maximising benefits to the environment.

Johannesburg City Parks first entered this competition in 2007 and returned with 4 Gold Awards, 1 Silver and 2 Bronze Awards. We also won the £10 000 (pound) bursary award to develop the Nkanyezi Stimulation Park for Children with multiple disabilities in Orlando, in Soweto.

In 2008 City Parks won the Gold Award for the Cosmo City Eco Village Project and Silver

for the Xtreme Park Makeover in Diepkloof.

This 2010 Liveable Communities (LivCom) International Awards will help Johannesburg:

- To measure itself against international best practice;
- To strive to build world class facilities;
- To enhance civic pride;
- To encourage innovation;
- To promote Joburg as an environmentally responsible City; and
- To promote tourism and leverage economic development.

We will do well to remember that as part of the 2010 FIFA World Cup legacy projects, the City, amongst others:

- Planted 200 000 trees, mainly in former disadvantaged areas and in the process of doing so created 2000 jobs over a period of two years. This was done through the City's Expanded Public Works Programme; and
- Engaged in a process of rehabilitating and greening the Klipspruit/Klipriver catchment (in the south).

It is our understanding that these greening programme also assist in ensuring a restoration of the dignity of our people. Through these greening corridors, we also seek to promote educational and related scientific studies, other opportunities and research.

As local government it is our responsibility to ensure that we provide our residents with access to open spaces closer to where they live. Our greening programme is also about the creation of a living network of greenways and open spaces.

We are aware that this is not an easy task. We know that we cannot succeed simply by doing this work alone and in isolation.

In this City, we have long recognised the importance of building partnerships. At the heart of these partnerships is the ability to work closely with communities.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate MMC for Corporate and Shared Services and Environmental Management, Cllr Matshidiso Mfikoe, the Chairperson of the Board of City Parks, Mr Maropeng Bahulathe, the Acting MD Geoffrey and his able team at the Johannesburg City Parks for their dedication and commitment to transform the Joburg landscape for the better.

I would also like to thank members of the community, media houses and donor funders who have helped in showcasing and supporting greening projects in Joburg. I would like to urge you to continue with this positive momentum, and together with us, to build a Green and make Joburg great.

Thank you.