

April 21 2007: Budget  
consultation meeting

21 April 2007

Speech by the Executive Mayor of the city of Johannesburg, Cllr Amos Masondo, on the occasion of the stakeholder Summit (budget preparation / consultation process meeting), Gallagher Estate, Midrand - Johannesburg.

Programme Director  
Madam Speaker-Cllr Nkele Ntingane  
Chief Whip of Council-Cllr Bafana Sithole  
Members of the Provincial Legislature  
Members of the Mayoral Committee  
Leaders of all Political Parties  
Fellow Councillors  
Members of the Diplomatic Corps  
City Manager: Mavela Dlamini  
Managers and Officials of Council  
Members of the Ward Committees  
Representatives of Civil Society Organisations  
The media  
Distinguished guests  
Fellow Citizens  
Ladies and gentlemen

Programme Director on behalf of the Council, the residents and citizens of Johannesburg I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to this year's Stakeholder Summit.

Please allow me to take this opportunity to acknowledge the presence of the City's stakeholders present at this meeting today. These stakeholders' range from community leaders, ward committee members, non-governmental organisations, labour, business, women and youth.

Ladies and gentlemen, a similar meeting in the form of the Growth and Development Summit took place after the 1st of March 2006 Local Government Elections. At this gathering, we re-committed ourselves to a vision: to build Johannesburg into a World-Class African City.

In order to realise this goal, the Growth and Development Summit that was held on 12th May 2006 at Nasrec, which I believe most of you in this hall attended, produced the Growth and Development Strategy Document. Its vision statement declares that:

"In future, Johannesburg will continue to lead as South Africa's primary business City, a dynamic centre of production, innovation, trade, finance and services. This will be a City of opportunity, where the benefits of balanced economic growth will be shared in a way that enables all residents to gain access to the ladder of prosperity, and where the poor, vulnerable and the excluded will be supported out of poverty to realise upward social mobility. The result will be a more equitable and spatially integrated City, very different from the divided City of the past. In this World-Class African City for all, everyone will be able to enjoy decent accommodation, excellent services, the highest standard and safety, access to participatory governance, and quality community life in sustainable

neighbourhoods and vibrant urban spaces".

In addition, the City, through an intensive consultation process, has developed a five year Integrated Development Plan (IDP).

Programme Director, it is important to state that the City undertook a rigorous internal and external consultation process in the build up to this Summit.

This Summit is a culmination of an intensive process of consultation on the Integrated Development Programme (IDP) and the Budget with a range of stakeholders. This consultation process started with regional meetings that sought to enable all the City's regions to speak out about their specific concerns, to make inputs and related comments.

Programme Director, we gather here to reflect on some of these inputs with the aim of ensuring that this Summit arrives at a citywide perspective on the IDP and Budget.

Fellow citizens, my intention is not to deny the many challenges that continue to face us in our City. Neither do I want to gloss over the mistakes we may have made nor the slow delivery we experienced in certain areas of our work. We who find ourselves at the political coalface of development and the City's administration are aware of the fact that we cannot ever be complacent or self-satisfied.

We know, amongst others, that we have to eradicate the social inequalities, address the burning issues of poverty, ensure service delivery and the need for early childhood development programmes.

We know that we have to do more to unravel the distorted settlement patterns of Apartheid and to transform the dormitory townships, address the challenges of inner-city residential areas and informal settlements into normalised neighbourhoods capable of providing decent housing and related services.

We are aware of the relatively high cost of doing business in Johannesburg and we have engaged with both big and the small business sector in search of practical solutions. In this process we are looking at the unnecessary regulatory burdens that might affect business and prevent them from operating at full potential. And we recognise our responsibility to provide appropriate economic infrastructure and service inputs at good competitive standard and price.

We have listened to all the regional concerns as well as issues raised by the stakeholders and today we will be embracing all the good ideas that will help us formulate a sound plan for the coming financial year.

Programme Director, consultation and Participation are not processes that this Council pay lip service to just because the law says we should ensure community participation in matters of local government.

Participation of the citizens in City planning allow for the enhancement of whatever work a municipality want to do at a village, town or city level.

In her letter to the City on the matter of the five-year City's Integrated Development Plan for the period 2006 to 2011, the MEC for Local Government, Ms Qedani Mahlangu says: "In

Johannesburg, the process of public participation and consultation around the IDP was exemplary. The innovative manner in which the CoJ used people's centres, call centres, media (print and electronic) and clinics to disseminate municipal information was most impressive. The City's Growth and Development Summit was notable for the extent of public consultation undertaken, as well as the level of detailed content on which the CoJ sought engagement of civil society's comments on the IDP gives testimony to how far entrenched and consultative the IDP and Budget processes are in the City".

This Summit will give highlights of the budget's intentions to address challenges as raised by our communities and in keeping with the City's vision.

At the first ever Presidential Imbizo held in Johannesburg on 14th and 15th April 2007, it became clear that the City has set itself realistic goals, but required a budget and the relevant means to make these a reality.

The budget and IDP process seeks to translate commitment into action.

Please allow me to highlight some of the comments that were raised by the City's residents: "The hardships faced in informal settlements is summed by Mapaseka Moloi from Ward 10 (informal settlement), who said that "there are neither lights nor sewage provided in the squatter camps."

We need to remind ourselves that the City is upgrading, renewing and extending its networks in order to scale up its backlog eradication programme. Currently areas with no service - Water is 5% and sanitation 9% - are mostly in informal settlements and unserviced areas. The City launched Project Thonifho (a luVenda name for Dignity) to accelerate service in informal settlements. We aim at providing improved water and sanitation to 20 000 additional households by June 2007, and to a further 30 000 in 2007/2008 financial year. This represents a substantial increase on previous years.

She further said 'we currently only have access to taxis, when will our area (Diepsloot) get buses to also benefit from Rea Vaya?'

Programme Director, we are one of very few municipalities that have a comprehensive transport policy in place. The City's approach is informed by the Integrated Transportation Plan.

In addition, the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) will be integrated into the broader transport system with feeder routes being serviced by minibuses and taxis that will link to the Gautrain network. Our objective is to move at least 10 percent of City's commuters from private vehicles onto the public transport network.

The City transport plan seeks to address transport fragmentation and it focuses on the key economic nodes and those that are currently most travelled. Corridors include a north-south route from Sunninghill to Soweto, as well as an east-west route from Alexandra to Randburg and beyond. Seven routes have been selected in order to give the commuter maximum flexibility with minimum cumbersome transfers. It is our intention to implement this plan not later than 2008.

In Region A, Isaac stated that "People want to work but need help to finance equipment and

upgrade their skills. The city has these skills and experience but we need access to them".

Programme Director, we have established a full directorate to take responsibility for the growing portfolio of economic development.

Our key programmes range from sector development programme, business process outsourcing, ICT, tourism, trade promotion and investment, assisting with BBBEE, Urban Development Zone (UDZ) Tax incentive, informal trading, skills development programme and LED learnerships including training and placement of youth, the Extended Public Works Programme as well as the establishment and the launch of the SMME Fund.

Mariam Makhubela from Region E asked: "What can we do to intensify the education of the communities? This issue is critical for environmental management issues like promotion of recycling, protection of open spaces from decay and abuse and reduction of illegal dumping problems in the city. All parts of the city are affected."

The City has a comprehensive Environmental Management Framework in place and is committed to pursuing a path of Sustainable Development.

Greening programme will be intensified through the planting of 200 000 trees. The City will also encourage developers to plant at least two trees for every house built, these will include fruit trees.

A business plan for the Klipspruit/Klip River has been completed and a number of priority development projects will flow from this. We will continue with the Jukskei River rehabilitation and conduct a feasibility study for the rehabilitation of Bruma Lake.

We will continue to learn from previous experiences including the 100 spots programme. An important element of this is community participation, involvement and by-law enforcement.

We are also aware of the concerns expressed about crime from the business, community, civil society as well as ordinary individual citizens. There are those who want to perpetuate the stereotype and the notion that Johannesburg in particular is a place ridden with crime - the crime capital of the world. This is being economic with the truth.

The citizens of Johannesburg are, however, raising this issue and the question of crime not simply because they want to score some obscure political point. Mr Trevor Maluleke from Ward 81 in Alexandra wanted to know:

"All parts of the city are affected by crime, corruption and by-law enforcement, what more can the city do to address the hotspots which exist in our area, and where the CPF is struggling to build a relationship with the JMPD, what can the city do to help with this?"

The City of Johannesburg has developed the City Safety Strategy and works closely with the South African Police Service. We are also committed to work with all the stakeholders including business, civil society organisations as well as communities in the fight against crime.

JMPD will train and employ 500 new officers every year and by the year 2011 the total figure would have increased to 4 000 officers.

Our key programmes in Public Safety are as follows:

- To secure unsafe areas by designing and implementing the lighting master plan for the City and transport nodes, increasing the number of CCTVs in the inner-city, the utilisation of surveillance technology within the Inner City has seen a tremendous reduction in the incidence of crime, cutting of over grown grass and fencing all areas that are unsafe; crime prevention; by-law enforcement and traffic policing.
- The City is continuing with its skills development and diversion programmes for offenders and youth at risk.
- The City intends to reduce the levels of priority crimes with a specific focus on those that adversely affect business and tourism through focused surveillance technology.
- The City is stepping up crime prevention efforts with special attention to the sale of alcohol, drug manufacturing and distribution and firearm control.
- The City will further increase the visibility of JMPD officers and improving response times.
- Response times, perceptions, strengthening community policing, by-law enforcement, crime and urban decay are some the challenges that face the City.

To set the record straight, it is important to note that this problem is being dealt with. Amongst others we will be meeting all stakeholders at the Inner City Summit planned to take place on the 5th May 2007. Part of the issues that the stakeholders will grapple with is crime and grime.

It is an established fact that crime and grime go together. Run down buildings tend to be closely associated with criminal activities. To examine to what extent we have advanced and made improvement on this matter one has to look at the following:

- Many buildings were abandoned are now fully occupied and functional. These range from Carlton centre, which is more than 95% fully utilised by Transnet, SARS and others.
- Real estate investors have been showing a healthy appetite for these same buildings in central Johannesburg.
- The urban renewal that is taking place in central Johannesburg, includes amongst others, the continuing development of the Newtown Cultural Precinct, The Constitutional Court, the Drill Hall, Mary FitzGerald Square, Mandela Bridge and the Braamfontein Precinct.
- The new housing settlements such as Brickfields and the Better Buildings Programme.

Let me indicate that despite the drastic reduction we have seen in crime figures over the past year, the City will continue to strengthen our law-enforcement capabilities and step up our efforts to protect the lives and property of the people of Johannesburg.

Programme Director the following are some of the features in the 2007/2008 proposed Capital Budget:

- Provision for (City's own funding) in the 2007/2008 financial year has been included for the 2010 Soccer World Cup projects ranging from (stadia, precinct, transportation- BRT and other related 2010 infrastructure).
- Provision made towards the Alexandra Renewal projects.
- Provision towards service infrastructure for housing, Cosmo city project, hostel conversion and medium density housing.
- Implementation of the Phakama project. This project will resolve the City's billing and customer service challenges and create systems, processes and practices that will allow the City to have a single view of the customer and afford the customer a single entry point into the City.
- Provision towards gravel roads, storm water projects and mobility improvements;
- Electricity bulk infrastructure refurbishment, outages and public lighting programme;
- Gcinamanzi and upgrading of water infrastructure; and
- Better Buildings Programme and the Property and Land Regularisation.

There will be an increase in the City's budget to accommodate the community needs and to fast track the City's programmes and projects as we:

- Strive to become the "World-Class African City;"
- Prepare to host the FIFA 2010 World Cup;
- Regenerate the Inner City and other areas;
- Embrace and support Gautrain in City's planning; and
- Respond to ASGISA and broader issues of economic development.

Programme Director, both the Budget and the IDP will be tabled before Council on the 23rd of May 2007 and debated the following day. It is important to locate the context within which this budget will be considered and discussed. The words of the Finance Minister of India, P Chidambaram in concluding his 2004 budget speech are the following:

The countries of the world, India included, have set for themselves the Millennium Development Goals. Our date with destiny is not the end of the millennium, but in the year 2015. Will we achieve these goals? In the 11 years that remain, it is in our hands to shape our destiny. Progress is not always on a linear path, nor is it inevitable. 2000 years ago, Saint Tirvalluvar said: 'They are good rulers who observe ethics commit no crime and walk the path of honour and courage'. If we bring thought and passion to our governance, and walk the path of honour and courage, we can make the future happen. And this century will be India's century."

This is Africa's century and we shall triumph.

Programme Director, please allow me to conclude this address by quoting Professor Jeffrey Sachs in his book 'The end of poverty - how we can make it happen in our lifetime' he says "let no one be discouraged by the belief there is nothing one man or one woman can do against the enormous array of the world's ills - against misery and ignorance, injustice and violence ... Few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history

of this generation ... It is from the numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current we can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

And he continues to say: "let the future say of our generation that we sent forth mighty currents of hope, and that we worked together to heal the world."

Thank you

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