

At a luncheon with members of the Diplomatic Corps, Lekgotla Restuarant, Sandton ☐
Johannesburg

19 July 2007

**SPEECH BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF JOHANNESBURG AT A LUNCHEON
WITH MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, LEKGOTLA RESTUARANT,
SANDTON – JOHANNESBURG**

17 July 2007

Programme Director

Speaker of Council: Clr Nkele Ntingane

Chief Whip of Council: Clr Bafana Sithole

Members of the Mayoral Committee

Your Excellency Dean of the Diplomatic Corp and

Ambassador of Libya: Dr Alzubeidi

Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners

Consuls Generals

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

The City Manager: Mavela Dlamini

Managers and Officials of Council

The Media

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Programme Director, on behalf of the City of Johannesburg, it gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to this important occasion.

The City of Johannesburg continues to enjoy and have excellent relationship with many of your towns and cities. In large measure this derives from a special relationship that South Africa enjoys with many of your countries.

We remain aware that although Johannesburg, as the most recent figures indicate, may employ 12% of the national workforce and generate about 17% of South Africa's Gross Domestic Product, it continues to grapple with many challenges. These are fairly similar to the experiences of many cities in the world.

This City, places a very high premium on its relationship with yourselves and we value all the companies that are doing business here.

The City's Municipal International Relations Unit continues to do us proud as we forge and maintain our relationships at an international level and as we strive to realise our objective of building Johannesburg into a World Class African City.

We continue to deepen our relationship cities such as Addis Ababa, Birmingham, London, New York and Windhoek. We continue to reach out to others and seek create similar relationships with others else where in search of best practice that we will adapt to our own Johannesburg reality.

For the Continent of Africa this is a very important year as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Independence of Ghana. It is therefore appropriate and logical that we in the City of Johannesburg mark this historic development by hosting your excellences and by reaching out to Accra.

Programme Director, these agreements for Johannesburg are far more than mere symbolic gestures. With most of our sister cities we have identified specific projects for co-operation and information sharing. For example, we are sharing information about land and housing development with Addis Ababa; with Windhoek we are pursuing five projects, which are Safety, Professional Development, Planning and Infrastructure Development, Water reticulation and Councillor Development. Currently, we do Councillor Development and Safety Projects. The relationship with Birmingham Catch-eye Wise Owl Youth project is to address substance abuse among the youth and Libraries exchange project through book fairs. Urban renewal has also been explored and identified as a possible project.

The New York City partnership is centred on the areas of safety and tourism:

- On safety - Johannesburg Metro Police Department, Johannesburg Emergency Management Services and the New York Metro Police and the New York Fire Department are identifying more areas of co-operation; and
- On economic development - The Johannesburg Tourism Company is pursuing related opportunities.

The City partnerships in Africa that are still in the development phase includes Matola in Mozambique and a diagnostic study with National Treasury is being conducted and will be concluded by August 2007. With regard to Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo, we have identified possible projects in waste and financial management.

Some of the projects that we are pursuing seeks to strengthen local government and give impetus to good governance, improved service delivery, poverty eradication and deepen solidarity through the sharing of best practice.

Programme Director, we in Johannesburg continue to build an inclusive city where every person, regardless of race, creed or background should feel welcome and at home. We are committed to ensure that all those who live within our jurisdiction and abide by the country's laws and the City's by-laws.

We have recently established a help-desk for migrants, which offer a wide range of services. These includes:

- Advice on how to access appropriate government services;
- Efforts to co-ordinate the City's support for migrants;
- Assisting refugees with economic opportunities;
- Providing information and accommodating various service providers;
- Examining community networks; and
- Looking at needs of asylum seekers.

We will soon launch a public campaign against xenophobia to ensure a better understanding of issues relating to migrants, foreign nationals and illegal immigrants.

We believe that migrant communities can make a significant contribution to enhance the richness and cultural diversity of a city. The increasing cosmopolitan nature of the City of Johannesburg, as has been the case for many years, is a reflection of "strength in diversity."

Programme Director, we continue to grapple with the issue of crime. Let me assure you that we take all concerns raised as very seriously and deserving attention.

We recently held an Inner City Summit that was attended by various stakeholders. These ranged from community leaders, ward committee members, non-governmental organisations, labour, business representatives, women and youth. The focus of this Summit was on urban regeneration and renewal. Elements of this include crime and grime.

On crime we seek to ensure the following:

- Securing unsafe areas by designing and implementing a lighting master plan for the City and transport nodes.
- Increasing the number of Closed Circuit Television monitors in the inner-city. (Our use of this surveillance technology within the Inner City has already resulted in a significant reduction in the incidence of crime).
- Strengthening our ability to enforce the City's by-laws and looking after seemingly minor issues such as the cutting of overgrown grass and fencing of areas that are considered unsafe.
- Reducing the levels of priority crimes including those that adversely affect business and tourism (through focused surveillance technology).
- Stepping up crime prevention efforts with special attention to the sale of alcohol, drug manufacturing and distribution and firearm control.
- Increasing the visibility of JMPD officers and improving response times.

We will also make provision of one additional vehicle for every three officers. JMPD is training and has employed 840 officers from 1st July 2007, it will employ 1160 officers from July 2008/2009 and by the year 2010 the total figure would have increased to 4 000 officers. In Johannesburg we are committed to the concept of developmental local government. We are engaged in a continuous struggle to eradicate social inequalities and address the burning issues of poverty, the delivery of basic services and the creation of economic opportunities for our people. These are not issues that government can tackle on its own and in isolation. This work requires partnerships with organisations of civil society and communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the international community for continuing to support us in the implementation of many economic development initiatives in our country and we are equally appreciative to the many foreign businesses that have invested in the future of our City. Ladies and gentlemen, once again, I want to thank you for your continued interest in our City.

I hope that you will still be with us when, in less than three year's time, the first ball of the 2010 Soccer World Cup will be kicked here in Johannesburg. As let me reiterate what I recently discussed with FIFA President Dr Sepp Blatter: "The bulldozers are moving. The structures are rising from the ground. We are on time; on schedule and within budget." In the course of the day you will hear and experience a lot more about the very exciting prospects for growth and development that are opening up across our City. I would like to urge you to

promote the cause of the City of Johannesburg within your own communities with the same fervour and conviction as you so ably represent your countries within South Africa. Thank you