

EM Stakeholder Summit

30 March 2010

Speech by the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Councillor Amos Masondo, on the occasion of the stakeholder summit (idp and budget consultation process), Gallagher Estate, Midrand – Johannesburg

Programme Director: Councillor Prema Naidoo

Speaker of Council: Councillor Nkele Ntingane

Chief Whip of Council: Councillor Nonceba Molwele

MMC for Finance: Councillor Parks Tau

Members of the Mayoral Committee

Leaders of all Political Parties

Fellow Councillors

City Manager: Mr Mavela Dlamini

Managers and Officials of Council

Members of Ward Committees

Representatives of Civil Society Organisations

Distinguished Guests

The Media

Fellow Citizens

Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

Programme Director, thank you for the privilege to say a few words at this important occasion – the City of Johannesburg Stakeholders Summit. Present at this meeting are a number of key stakeholders. These range from community leaders, ward committees, members of community-based and faith-based organisations, non-governmental organisations, leaders of various political parties, people with disabilities, representatives of labour, women, business and youth formations.

Programme Director, the 2010 Stakeholder Summit is a culmination of an extensive citywide consultative process, to develop an Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and to consider the preliminary ideas on the resources required for the compilation of the Budget for the financial year 2010/2011.

Background and context

MADIBA'S RELEASE

As we gather here we remain aware that this meeting occurs at an important time in the history of our country, when we are celebrating twenty (20) years of Nelson Mandela's release and the unbanning of the ANC, SACP and other political parties. Celebrating Madiba's release is a celebration of people's power and an affirmation of the pivotal role that they played in ensuring this historic moment.

The Sharpeville Massacre

Sixteen years into our democracy, we mark the 50th anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre where civilians were killed by the apartheid state merely because they dared to express their democratic right to protest against oppressive laws.

Centenary of a unitary state and formation of the ANC

We need to remind ourselves, that in 1910, a hundred years ago, the Union of South Africa constitution was adopted. This marked a formal exclusion of all those other than white from all parliamentary and related institutions. In part, it was this development that led to the formation of the ANC on 8 January 1912.

The Freedom Charter

This year we will be commemorating the 55th anniversary of the Freedom Charter, adopted in Kliptown on the 26th June in 1955. Programme Director, we have gone some way to realise the Charter's vision and many of the provisions reflected in the constitution of the Republic. Let us remember what Oliver Reginald Tambo said on the Charter's implication to South Africa and all its people in the 1980 January 8th statement:

“The Freedom Charter contains the fundamental perspective of the vast majority of the people of South Africa of the kind of liberation that all of us are fighting for. Hence it is not merely the Freedom Charter of the African National Congress and its allies. Rather it is the charter for the people of South Africa for liberation...because it came from the people; it remains still a people’s charter, the one basic political statement of our goals to which all genuinely democratic and patriotic forces of South Africa adhere.”

We have a responsibility to ensure that this farsightedness and foresight is brought to fruition.

2010 FIFA World Cup

Programme Director, perhaps it is also appropriate to indicate that today, as we gather here, it is mere seventy five (75) days before the first ever 2010 FIFA World Cup is held on the African continent.

On 2011 Local Government elections

Programme Director, we are mindful that as we gather here, it is just under a year before the 2011 local government elections take place.

In this regard, one expects, as a matter of course, that the different political parties and formations will engage in robust and somewhat emotive debates. Programme Director, we will do well to remain vigilant and render meaningless, the negative propaganda that is meant to manipulate. I am of the view that, whatever we do, should not merely be intended to win an approval, should not merely be intended to get an applause or merely intended to make us appear popular. We should not become so short sighted.

Election time also implies that there are a number of tasks that we will have to carry out. This Municipal Council will have to do the following:

Assist the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), which is charged with organising and managing elections, to provide logistical support and popularise elections.

Make available required competent personnel;

Engage in voter education, voter registration and promote other related civic responsibilities; and

Help to create conducive conditions for a free and fair election.

Our plans and strategies

The City of Johannesburg has, since the 1st March 2006 Local Government Elections, re-committed itself to our vision: to build Johannesburg into a World-Class African City.

In order to realise this goal, the Growth and Development Summit which was attended by more than 1500 delegates was held on 12th May 2006 at Nasrec. This significant gathering produced the Growth and Development Strategy Document. The vision statement says:

“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”.

This vision, Programme Director, seeks to articulate our long term desired outcome. It further enriches the work that we do on a day to day basis by concentrating our minds on the following:

Ensuring the Pro-active absorption of the poor through our extended Social Package dispensation in respect of basic municipal services.

A focus on settlement restructuring to improve the spatial form of our city from an apartheid layout to an inclusive and functional urban form.

Seeking to enhance a balanced and shared growth meant to benefit the majority and not just an elite few.

Improving social mobility and cohesiveness of society as well as striving to reduce inequalities.

Striving to ensure sustainability by reducing wastage of scarce resources such as energy and water; at the same time promoting the green environment that is a heritage to all; and

Seeking better and innovative governance solutions.

Programme Director, I do encourage the house and all our residents to continue to engage with the full text of the Growth and Development Strategy (GDS) of the city as we keep on refining and shaping the future of Johannesburg.

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

Through these strategy documents and all these plans, we are seeking to address the challenges of urbanisation and migration, economic development and job creation, service delivery, poverty, urban renewal and regeneration, the impact of globalisation, the need for information technology and the bridging of the digital divide and other related challenges. These challenges, Programme Director, are embedded in the following Mayoral Priorities:

Economic Growth and Job Creation

Health and Community Development

Housing and Services

Safe, Clean and Green city

Well Governed and Managed city

HIV and AIDS

Ours is a developmental local government. We seek to actively use the instrument of Local Government, the municipality, to improve the quality of life of all residents and citizens.

The challenges of urbanisation and migrants

We support the view of the Minister of Home Affairs that we have a responsibility, as a country, to ensure much better control of our borders. That we need to negate the perception that our borders are porous. The city will continue to consolidate on the work that is being done on this question.

Migrant help desks

The Migrant Help Desk was launched on 17 April 2007. The Desk continues to offer relevant services to walk-in clients or foreign nationals.

Joburg migrant advisory committee

The Joburg Migrant Advisory Committee was launched on 06 October 2009.

A plan of action to guide the JMAC activities has been developed.

Service delivery protests

Protest action in terms of our Constitution is perfectly legitimate. It is the violence, intimidation, damage to property and the general anarchy that we find completely unacceptable.

Furthermore, given the fact that government is ever willing and prepared to listen to all legitimate concerns, we would like to condemn in the strongest possible terms those who are involved in violence and intimidation of the citizens.

We have at all times sought to paint a realistic picture of what government can and cannot do at this point in time. We have consistently refused to promise heaven on earth.

We have at all times provided honest and truthful answers to residents and also refused to provide opportunistic and convenient answers. Delivering his State of the Nation Address, President Zuma said: “no to violent protests” and “no grievance can justify violence and destruction of property.”

I would like to take this opportunity to also condemn the acts of violence against our Emergency Services staff at Durban Deep and the dicing and drag racing on our roads.

Programme Director, local government is about the wellbeing of citizens and residents.

We would like to reiterate our unwavering commitment to continue engaging with communities in order to ensure that indeed “local government works better for you”.

2010 FIFA World Cup

Programme Director, as I have stated before, we are seventy five (75) days away from the 2010 FIFA World Cup. As a City, we are constantly receiving favourable feedback from FIFA, the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and national government on our state of readiness.

The opening and closing ceremonies will be held here in Joburg. The opening game and the finals will be played here. Now we know Johannesburg will host 15 games.

In order to comply with the FIFA regulations the 2010 stadiums have undergone extensive upgrade and construction. Soccer City and Ellis Park Stadiums have been identified as venues for the 2010 FIFA World Cup. Furthermore, Orlando, Dobsonville, Rand and Ruimsig stadiums have been identified as training venues.

Programme Director, let me reiterate that, we are on track and ready to host the World Cup. We are confident that everything will go well. Together we will deliver the best-ever World Cup experience and leave a lasting legacy for the people of Africa, South Africa, Gauteng and Johannesburg.

We note with interest the British Government survey figures that indicate that South Africa is a safer destination than some European countries such as Spain or Germany, (for citizens living or visiting South Africa).

Let us all go out there to support our team Bafana Bafana and enjoy the beautiful game.

Broadening participation through community based planning

Programme Director, the City's commitment to public participation and consultation is based on constitutional and legal obligations. As many of you will be aware, we have implemented ward based planning with enthusiasm and vigour, to ensure defined community needs. Between November 2009 and January 2010 a series of consultative meetings were held with Councillors, ward committees and other stakeholders. We have done all of this work not merely because - so says the law. We have done so as a matter of principle.

The Community Based Planning (CBP) process has also empowered communities. The benefit of this approach has been:

that communities have been able to generate ideas and

contribute meaningfully in the process of the creation of a more equitable and spatially integrated city (which is in line with the City's long-term vision and the 5-year IDP).

In this entire process of consultation, the city has become much much more sensitised to the challenges and the insights of communities. If we are to succeed in addressing all of these issues, we need a higher level of connectivity between government and the people. We need a true partnership.

Some issues that have emerged from the outreach and community based planning process

Programme Director, please allow me to highlight few of these issues that have been raised by communities:

Installation of stormwater systems especially in the Greater Soweto area (including Braamfischerville, Doornkop and Slovo Park), Orange Farm, Diepsloot and Ivory Park. In addition, there were submissions made with regard to tarring of the roads, traffic signalling, congestion management, and construction of pedestrian bridges.

Construction and maintenance of multi-purpose centres, sports facilities and other council owned properties. Affected areas include, amongst others, Region A (Ivory Park), Region B (Westdene, Riverlea), Region D (Soweto) and Region C (Doornkop).

Request for the development of new parks, especially in the previously marginalised areas such as Region G (Orange Farm and Poortjie), Region A (Diepsloot and Ivory Park), Region B (Homestead Park, Newclare, Claremont, Westbury), Region E (Alexandra) and Region C (Zandspruit). Grass cutting was also raised as an important issue.

Rollout of public lights to prevent crime in areas such as Tshepisong, Zandspruit, Orange Farm, Diepsloot, Finetown and Drieziek. There was also a concern raised about the lack of maintenance of street lighting.

Installation (connecting houses to the sewer main) and maintenance of sewer systems, especially in Region G (Orange Farm, Poortjie and Stretford).

Relocation of people living in houses that are built below the flood line (Braamfischerville, Thulani in Doornkop and Lakeside)

Construction of speed humps and other traffic calming measures in residential areas in some Regions; and the

Eradication of informal settlements in Heavenly Valley in Klipspruit West. Housing still remains an issue in many areas.

A concern has been raised about the need to address the question of toilets and sanitation in Alexandra Township.

Programme Director, we remain aware that these issues are not completely exhaustive. We intend holding further consultations with regions and hope that in the process of doing so we will be able to find consensus on what our priorities should be, given the fact that by definition, the needs in all our communities are extensive and the resources and the budget are scarce and limited.

Highlights of 2010/2011 operating budget & idp

On the 25th of March 2010, the City tabled both the draft IDP and Budget at Council for public comment. The City's Budget is more than just a record of revenue and expenditure. It is a key policy instrument that can ensure meaningful community transformation.

The proposed 2010/2011 City of Johannesburg draft Budget is estimated to be R28 billion. This consists of an Operating budget of R25 billion and a Capital budget of R2.9 billion.

Of the R25 billion operating budget, a total budget of R9 billion is allocated to Core Administration and R16 billion for Municipal Entities.

The Overview of the Proposed 2010/2011 Capital and Operating Budget will seek to ensure the following:

An allocation will be made to Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Services (JMPD) in order to deal with issues of crime, by-law enforcement, increased police visibility and traffic management.

The City will also make an allocation for City Power to deal with public lighting in Ivory Park, Braamfischerville, Drieziek, Finetown, Ivory Park, Kaalfontein, Kleeve Hill-Petervale, Lonehill, Morningside, Mountain View, Parkmore, Poortjie, Rabie Ridge and Stretford and other informal settlements.

Economic Development will receive an allocation for the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) city-wide and SMME support initiatives.

Emergency Management Service's budget allocation will be made to address among other issues the roll out of public safety initiatives (this includes addressing the question of drownings).

Over the coming year, the City will allocate a substantial amount towards the upgrading of cemeteries (burial spaces are getting exhausted).

Funds allocated to Transport will continue with the implementation of the operations of the Rea Vaya BRT as well as transport road safety plans (speed humps, traffic calming and road markings).

Community Development will also receive some allocation for various programmes such as Expanded Social Package, and maintenance of social amenities. Furthermore, an allocation will be channelled towards the building of the Soweto Theatre and other sport and recreational facilities.

Health will also receive an allocation for the appointment of nurses, doctors and other medical professionals as well as for the ongoing upgrading of clinics.

Money will be set aside to implement projects such as upgrading of hostels, Vlakfontein Lehae Phase 2 for essential services mainly, formalisation of informal settlements, Elias Motsoaledi (bulk services), Fleurhof (bulk services), and for Inner City Emergency accommodation.

The City will also be setting aside budgets to continue with amongst others, the implementation of projects in the Inner City, Cosmo City, Alexandra Renewal Project .

The City will also invest a substantial amount on the upgrading gravel roads in Diepsloot, Doornkop, Ivory Park and Orange Farm.

Finalising the 2010/2011 budget and idp

Programme Director, post the Stakeholder Summit, departments will be required to provide detailed responses on all the issues raised and tabled in their reports at Section 79 Portfolio Committee meetings for incorporation into the final 2010/2011 IDP for approval in May 2010. Copies of the tabled IDP will also be circulated to key stakeholders.

We will also use this period leading up to the final approval in May 2010 to allow for Section 79 Portfolio Committees, ward structures, National and Provincial Government, Parastatals, communities and other stakeholders to make their input.

This budget, Programme Director, is meant to ensure that we consolidate many of the programmes that have been undertaken in the past four years. Whilst consolidating, we remain focused on the future.

Conclusion

We remain accountable to the people. We seek to serve them and ensure that they play an important role in the struggle to improve their lives.

The City of Johannesburg will continue to lift the bar and strive towards higher and quality standards of service delivery in line with the Batho Pele principles. We will do so because we care and we are ever willing to serve!

Thank you