

SPEAKER'S NOTES FOR CLR MPHONGA PHEKO, EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF JOHANNESBURG, AT A
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN REGION E.

10 April 2013

Programme Director

Thank you for the opportunity to meet and share with Region E as the City of Johannesburg looks back on the successful implementation of a number of projects. We have come here to jointly deliberate and plan for new initiatives that will benefit the community.

Today's event is part of a week-long programme of action within the Region as we encourage citizens to engage with the City's Integrated Development Programme (IDP) which will form the basis of Johannesburg planning for its short and medium term future. This input will also influence the allocation of budgets and resources.

I therefore want to commend you on participating in these encounters and encourage you to make your views heard. It is important for you to contribute positively to the debates and discussions in this process. This is the platform which enables you to shape your own future and that of Africa's most important economic hub.

As a government which reflects the values and ideals of Africa's oldest liberation movement, the African National Congress, we have grown up in a strong and deep-rooted democratic tradition. This tradition is reflected in the ideals of the Freedom Charter which eventually also defined the contents of our country's democratic Constitution.

One of our primary values is a strong belief in grassroots participation in the democratic processes. We are not a government that only surfaces every five years during election campaigns to ask for your vote. When we take decisions, these are not done behind closed doors and away from the scrutiny of the people.

On the contrary, we want to play an active role in both the planning and implementation of programmes together with communities every week, month and 365 days of the year.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the last election in 2011, we initiated a city-wide consultation process to develop and frame a long-term strategy for Johannesburg. This culminated in the adoption of the Joburg 2040 Growth and Development Strategy (GDS) which looks at all aspects of political, economic and social life in our city. It also defines a roadmap of where we project Johannesburg to be in 30 years.

Many of us will not be here or occupy leadership positions in 2040. But this does not remove the responsibility from our shoulders to plan now for this world-class African City of the future.

Decisions we take today on the management of our scarce natural resources; on the infrastructure required to move, house and service a rapidly growing population; decisions we take on measures to

attract investment that will encourage economic growth, create jobs and improve the quality of life of our people – are all steps that will have an impact on our current young generation and their successors.

Programme Director,

To guide the City through the next steps of its immediate future, we also need to develop strategies and roadmaps. This is done through our integrated IDP which is, in fact, a rolling programme of action defining the City's priorities across the spectrum of its activities and service delivery functions, for the next three years.

It is at this level where, you as community members, can make the most valuable contribution. Through your participation in events such as this, you can truly help to shape our agenda and influence the future of your immediate environment.

Programme director,

Recently, I was privileged to be in the City of New York, where I jointly announced with Mayor Michael Bloomberg that Johannesburg, will next year host the C40 Global Summit on Climate Change. This is a unique opportunity for the leaders of the 60 largest cities in the world. At this platform where deliberations on steps that must be taken to ensure a sustainable future for our populations take place.

Among the many issues that I observed in New York, was the level of participation of the City's residents in determining the direction of their own communities. This was in many platforms including school districts, community boards, meetings of borough councils or voting for a range of elected public officials.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The point is that when it comes to issues that directly affect your daily lives and your families: be it quality of roads, public lighting, safety of environment, sparingly usage of water, quest to keep your suburb or township clean; these and similar issues, people shake hands and work across political and other differences in the best interests of their communities.

Through this event and many others held in every Region across our City during the month of April, we want to afford you the opportunity to participate in our structured democratic processes.

You have heard from other speakers about the progress we have already made to introduce community-based planning down to ward level. Through this process, you will be able to identify the specific priorities within your ward and indicate what you think should receive primary attention from the City.

One of the practical outcomes of this approach has been the Joburg 10 Plus programme. This was our way of responding decisively to community concerns about safety issues.

As you may know, this programme is a comprehensive plan to tackle crime and improve the safety and quality of lives of communities. It is also a systematic multi-agency approach across all the 130 wards in the City of Johannesburg.

It provides agencies across all spheres of government and the private sector as well as the community at large, to actively participate in important matters affecting their daily lives.

Programme Director,

Through Joburg 10 Plus, we intend to reduce the incidence of crime, improve by-law enforcement and traffic management while also engaging in proactive policing through improved community relations. This is done through a focused, information-driven and partnership-based approach. It is a move towards greater accountability, transparency and citizen participation.

I want to emphasise the fact that Joburg 10 Plus is not narrowly confined to crime prevention and the apprehension of criminals. It is a plan designed to address a range of issues within society that have an impact on the quality of lives of residents and their perceptions about safety.

Thus, you will notice our emphasis on integrated service delivery in which we expect the City's regional authorities, departments and the municipal-owned entities to coordinate their efforts.

In Region E, teams representing various departments and agencies are going into communities and neighbourhoods on a regular basis to address service delivery breakdowns and bottle necks.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to, again, call on you to use this opportunity to participate freely in the discussions and deliberations that will have an impact on your community.

I want to encourage my colleagues in the Mayoral Committee, the Council and senior management in departments and entities, to approach gatherings of this nature as "listening sessions". These will enable all of us to gain a better insight into the needs of the people of this Region.

I am looking forward to your input and trust that your contributions today and in the future sessions to help us to shape the Johannesburg of the future. Working together, it will always be possible to attain the goal of transforming Johannesburg to be a World Class African City.

Thank you for attending this session.