

Message by the mayor

15 December 2011

Message by the Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, Councillor Parks Tau, on the 2011 Festive Season, Metro Centre, Mayoral Parlour, Braamfontein – Johannesburg

WE have come to the end of one of the most eventful and productive year in the City of Johannesburg. We started of with a rush that only an election year could provide as the entire country's eyes were fixed on Johannesburg as the flagship municipality, waiting to see the verdict of the voters after ten years of democratic governance. It is now history, the voters gave us a decisive mandate to carry on with the work that we have been doing.

Towards the 2011 Local Government Elections, we committed to working together with the people of Johannesburg to build better communities.

It is from this basis that the Joburg 2040 Growth and Development Strategy was borne.

We have collectively decided to review the 2006 GDS based on the context that we are now faced with. We also realised that the City will have to become more resilient in order to adapt to changes and challenges such as climate change, resource scarcity, food insecurity and increasing inequality - to name but a few.

It is clear that the GDS Outreach Process has also made great strides in bringing the citizens of Johannesburg closer to the City of Johannesburg. The GDS outreach process has been of tremendous significance in building a collective and shared vision of the future city of Johannesburg that we all aspire to live in.

Together with the people of Johannesburg we have agreed on a common vision for the future. The vision has been developed by capturing the important values, aspirations and ideals that various stakeholders expressed throughout the GDS outreach process.

Our collective vision statement states that:

"Johannesburg - a World Class African City of the Future – a vibrant, equitable African city, strengthened through its diversity; a city that provides real quality of life; a city that provides sustainability for all its citizens; a resilient and adaptive society."

Joburg. My City – Our Future!

The Joburg 2040 Growth and Development Strategy has once more proved that there will always be a place in the sun for every resident of this City, if we work together.

The City has also undergone some important changes during this year following the elections, with the appointment of a new Mayor, Councillor Mpho Parks Tau and Members of the Mayoral Committee with new and added responsibilities for us as well as the departure of the former City Manager, Mr Mavela Dlamini.

We subsequently welcomed our new City Manager, Mr Trevor Fowler, who had to hit the ground running in providing leadership to a number of very important initiatives including

the Joburg 2040 Growth and Development Strategy, institutional review and the accelerated service delivery processes.

We can look back on the year 2011 with a significant degree of satisfaction and pride. We can truly say that we are making a difference in the lives of the people of Johannesburg through the provision of essential services and the introduction of important social and economic programmes.

Without the unwavering support from many of our loyal residents, we would have never been where we are today. Whether you are taking time off from work or are still working through the Festive Season, keep safe.

We trust that you will use this period to relax with family, friends and neighbours. Please do everything to support the efforts of law enforcement agencies. Adhere to the rules of the road: do not exceed the speed limit, look out for pedestrians, do not drink and drive, avoid drugs and similar substances and promote and encourage good conduct. Protect the children, women, the elderly and those with disability.

The City of Johannesburg would like to take this opportunity to wish all its residents and citizens of Johannesburg a great Festive Season and a Happy Prosperous New Year!

Working together, let us continue to build Johannesburg into a World Class African City for all! Together with the people of this great City, we are building better communities and building a better Johannesburg.