

**REMARKS OF THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG EXECUTIVE MAYOR,
COUNCILLOR MPHO MOERANE, AT THE FEATHER AWARDS SA
2021 NOMINEES ANNOUNCEMENT CEREMONY IN
JOHANNESBURG ON TUESDAY, 05 OCTOBER 2021**

Founder of The Feather Awards SA, LGBTIQ+ Activist and,
Queer Extraordinaire, Thami Dish

Our hosts:

Lumko Johnson
Ditshego Ditshego
Penny Lebyane
Zizo Tshwete

The LGBTIQ+ Community

Distinguished Guests

Good morning

Programme Director,

Thank you for having extended an invitation to me in my capacity as the Executive Mayor of our diverse City of Johannesburg. This is a City that is home to all who live in it, regardless of colour, creed or sexual orientation – be it naturally or by choice.

We live in times that demand from all of us - as members of the South African community - to first and far most respect and embrace each other as human beings. The expectation is that this happens without any form of discrimination or violation of rights that are equally bestowed upon all of us by the Constitution of the Republic.

Today I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to be part of The Feather Awards SA Nominees Announcement. This is not only because I am currently surrounded by a community with the most contagious zeal for life. However, it is also because the City supports initiatives directed at acknowledging the LGBTIQ+ community and their meaningful contribution in our society.

This support is recorded in Johannesburg's demonstrated drive to ensure that law enforcement agencies treat human rights violations, crimes related to both gender-based violence and violence against members of the LGBTIQ+ community and hate crimes with the necessary urgency. So far we know of 18 victims of hate crime across the country.

Distinguished guest,

Please allow me to request a moment of silence for all the lives lost to these kinds of crimes.

20 SECONDS SILENCE

Programme Director,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The support offered to the most vulnerable in our City places survivors at the centre of all our efforts and responses.

Some of you in attendance today may also already be aware of the recently initiated process of developing an exclusive programme dedicated to advancing the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community in Johannesburg. I am happy to report that the City has since formed an LGBTQI+ Advisory Committee for this purpose.

The Committee has already put together a draft Terms of Reference for the City to give effect to the mainstreaming of the LGBTQI+ community for the municipality. This requires that all spheres of government locate mainstreaming in their social, economic, legal and developmental framework for all citizens.

The Committee's focus is also to ensure that mainstreaming and achieving fairness, inclusivity, equality and equity in the provision of services and distribution of resources in the implementation of the City's business plan.

With that said, I hope you all realise how serious we, as a City, are in taking care of all members of our communities.

Today, however, is about celebrating members of the LGBTIQ+ community who are doing outstanding work in various communities across the country.

May the Awards continue to grow from strength to strength in recognizing the greatness of the members of the LGBTIQ+ community.

In the same breath, I wish to congratulate The Feather Awards SA on their 13th year milestone running.

May I take this moment to wish all the nominees for The Feather Awards SA 2021 to be announced shortly the best of luck.

May the best flock win.

I thank you.