

# **SPEAKER'S NOTES FOR MR TREVOR FOWLER, CITY MANAGER OF JOHANNESBURG AT THE LAUNCH OF THE METROPOLIS MEETING 2013**

14 June 2013

Programme Director

MMC Nonceba Molwele, MMC for Human Development,

Members of the Mayoral Committee,

Project Partners

Principals of schools

Members of the media

City of Joburg employees

Ladies and gentlemen

Thank you for this opportunity at the start of a vital and exciting period for Johannesburg during which the City will become the focus of international attention.

In a month's time Johannesburg will host the Annual Meeting of the Metropolis organisation under the broad theme of “***Caring Cities.***”

Metropolis is an important organisation in global terms. It represents more than 120 of the world's leading cities with a population of more than one-million. Thus, from 16 to 19 July Johannesburg will be joined by delegates from important urban environments such as Beijing, Rio de Janeiro, Moscow, Berlin, Bangkok, Dubai, Cairo, Mexico City, Kuala Lumpur, Paris and Dakar.

Metropolis serves as the primary network for the world's largest cities to share information, knowledge and best practices regarding urban issues. The discussions and decisions from this gathering will have an impact on the lives of close to 2.5- billion people across the globe.

The fact that Johannesburg is hosting this meeting of the Board of Directors as well as the Forum of Metropolitan Mayors, confirms the growing importance attached to the contributions and the opinions of the global South, with our City becoming an increasingly influential voice.

The convention will bring together more than 200 delegates as well as support staff and officials which will be a major boost for Johannesburg's tourism, hospitality and leisure sectors. It will also attract business leaders from member cities who will be exploring opportunities for future trade and investment in the City and rest of South Africa.

Johannesburg's global status will be further strengthened by our hosting of the One Young World Summit in October which brings together the next generation of leadership in government, commerce, industry and civil society to discuss issues of common concern.

And early next year the C40 Group of major cities will meet in Johannesburg for the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Summit on Climate Change – a vital issue for the future in which Johannesburg is increasingly become an influential voice.

The Metropolis theme of “*Caring Cities*” is of special significance to us in Africa - where the ethic of Ubuntu strongly influence our approach to create caring, responsive and sustainable communities, while the needs of society often supersede that of the individual.

During the four-day meeting, we will reflect on **six key issues** - all relevant to Johannesburg and form part of our priorities as defined by the Growth and Development strategy. ***These are: resource resilience in a sustainable environment; a smart city in a developing world; the power of the informal economy; engaged and empowered citizens; social cohesion and food resilience.***

Today's event focuses mainly on this last priority – namely food resilience. Through this launch we want to provide our employees and our stakeholders – especially the younger generation as we celebrate National Youth Month – with practical information that will enable them to make a positive contribution that will benefit all communities in our city.

I thank you.

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