

Councillor Newsletter

Office of the Executive Mayor City of Johannesburg

Welcome to the 33rd Councillor Newsletter

Meeting with SAFTU

Yesterday, I met with the South African Federation of Trade Unions (SAFTU), led by its General Secretary, Mr Zwelinzima Vavi, at which we reached a historic agreement aimed at providing relief to 280 workers who were previously dismissed by the then Midrand Council over 23 years ago.

More than 500 municipal workers went on strike in 1994 in protest against corruption and nepotism within the then council. They were dismissed and left penniless; most of them were denied their pension entitlements.

The City will ensure that these workers are considered for existing and new vacancies and will be appointed where possible into permanent positions over the next six months.

Corruption should never be allowed within our society. These workers should have been given special medals for being heroes and heroines of the struggle against corruption.

Regrettably instead of them being seen as the heroes in the struggle against corruption, they were subjected to victimisation whilst those guilty of corruption were allowed to remain in their jobs.

These workers and their families needlessly suffered for 23 years at the hands of administrations which preferred to protect corruption officials rather than honest workers.

The Johannesburg Metropolitan Council and the SAFTU further agreed that the City will work tirelessly to investigate what became of these workers' pension funds.

By all of us working together, we can not only end corruption but also build a prosperous Johannesburg for all.



Executive Mayor Cllr Herman Mashaba



@HermanMashaba



"Delivering services with pride"
- Mayor Herman Mashaba

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

MMC Stakeholders

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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FINANCE

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PUBLIC SAFETY

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TRANSPORT

Tebogo Mogashoa 011 298 5269 tebogomoga@joburg.org.za

Suspected crime can be reported to

JMPD

011 375 5911 or 080 075 3342

SAPS

10111

JMPD 24hour Traffic Hotline

080 872 3342

JOBURG WATER

24 hour Hotline

011 375 5555/ 0860 562 874

SMS line

082 653 2143

Email

Customer@jwater.co.za

PIKITUP

Report Illegal Dumping

0860 562874 / 011 375 5555

Email

Info@pikitup.co.za

DOWNLOAD

Rea Vaya Mobile App

Vaya Moja App

On Play Store or App Store

DOWNLOAD

City Power Mobile App

MyCityPower App

On Play Store or App Store

DOWNLOAD

Joburg Roads Agency Mobile App

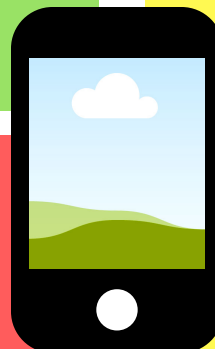
Find and Fix App

On Play Store or App Store

ANTI-CORRUPTION HOTLINE

We are all responsible for ensuring we stamp out corruption.

0800 002 587



CITY POWER

Call Center

086 056 2874

SMS Line

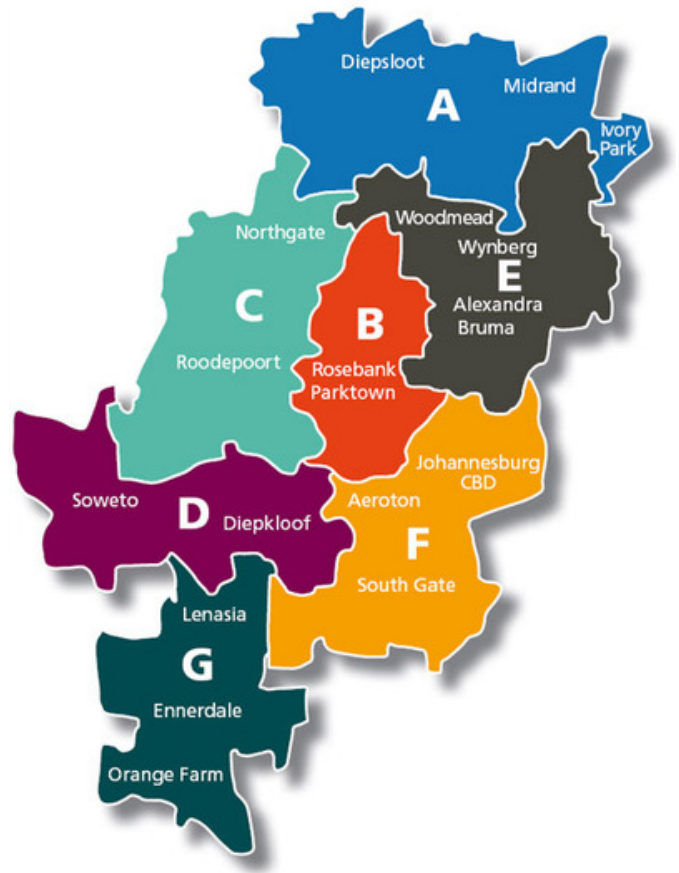
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E-mail

estimations@citypower.co.za

Political Heads for each of the City's regions

- Region A: Cllr Michael Sun
- Region B: Cllr Ntombi Khumalo (Dr.)
- Region C: Cllr Leah Knott
- Region D: Cllr Nonhlanhla Sifumba
- Region E: Cllr Nico de Jager
- Region F: Cllr Funzela Ngobeni
- Region G: Cllr Mzobanzi Ntuli



Some of our MMCs are also on Twitter!



- Cllr Nonhlanhla Sifumba: @NonnysZA
- Cllr Mpho Phalatse: @mphophalatse1
- Cllr Nico de Jager: @NicoDeJager64
- Cllr Michael Sun: @MichaelSun168
- Cllr Funzela Ngoben: @FunzelaZA
- Cllr Rabelani Dagada: @Rabelani_Dagada
- Cllr Valencia Khumalo: @NVKhumalo
- Cllr Nonhlanhla Makhuba: @Nhli1964



City of Joburg successfully launches EDMS Project

Monday, 11 September marked a new milestone in the City's drive towards a paperless environment.

Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) is a new system that will reduce printed documents and assist in increasing efficiencies, improve workflow processes, record keeping, reduce cost and contribute towards a greener environment.

The City's Executive Management Team (EMT), headed by the City Manager Dr Ndivhoniswani Lukhwareni and Group Corporate and Shared Services, successfully launched the ground-breaking EDMS at their meeting on Monday without any glitches.

The whole meeting was conducted using the EDMS technology entirely and without printing of documents, i.e. any minutes nor an agenda for attendees. When the new administration took office, we elevated the EDMS project to be one of the legacy projects of the City and prioritised its implementation.

The launch of the system within the EMT, is really a significant step for the City in moving towards the global trend of electronic management of documents. The system will be rolled out in phases through all other Section 79 Cluster Committees, and ultimately the City's Council, to realise maximum benefits.

The next phase of the roll out will be within the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC).

Details will be announced soon.





Bursaries

As the new administration, we understand and fully appreciate the challenges that young people face when they want to enroll for a degree or diploma at an institutions of higher learning.

This is compounded by high rates of unemployment rates in the country as a whole. Many of our residents, especially our youth, have to bear this on a daily basis. On our part, the City offers 100 bursaries (per year) to help our youth to upgrade their skills and improve their prospects for employment. While these spaces are limited, we would like to urge our councillors to spread the message while it is early so that our community members can prepare documents. On my part, I am currently doing a roadshow, visiting different community radio stations and newspapers to spread the message even further.

This year's bursary applications will be open early October, 2017. The official advertisement will be placed on local media platforms. Forms can also be collected from Metro Centre or downloaded from the City's website. Preference will be given to South African citizens, who permanently reside in Johannesburg, to pursue full-time undergraduate studies in one of the following fields: Sciences, Finance, Engineering and Management.

Please note:

- Competition for bursaries is high as thousands of people apply.
- 100 students per year benefit from the bursary.
- Selection of successful candidates is strictly on academic merit.

Section 79 – Death of Committee Officer

The death of our Colleague and Committee Officer of our department's Section 79 Meeting on Friday 08 September 2018 is regrettable and unfortunate. It is indeed a sad experience to lose a colleague, but witnessing her pass away was even more traumatic for colleagues who were there.

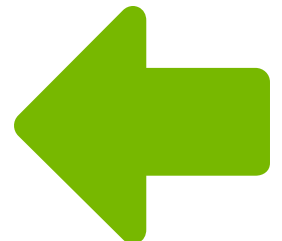
The pain and the trauma that everyone went through is unbearable, as a result EAP counselling services were immediately made available to all the Cllrs and officials. The services were further made available to anyone, including those who may have been part of the group debriefing session on Friday. Our sincere and heartfelt condolences goes to the family. I will be visiting the family along with other MMCs. The memorial service is on Thursday, 14 September 2017. Funeral will be on Saturday, 16 September 2017.

Retirement Preparation Workshop

The Employee Assistance Programme within the Human Resource Department is conducting a Retirement Preparation Workshop for all the employees who will be going on retirement in the next 5 years.

The workshop will take place on the 19th of September 2017 at the Council Chamber Wing in Metro Centre.

It will cover topics such as Retirement Process, Psychosocial aspects of Retirement, Medical aid cover options available on Retirement and Finances.





Second dose Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccination and Deworming Campaign

The City of Johannesburg Health Department together with the Gauteng Department of Health will be embarking on a campaign to provide the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine for girl learners. The campaign which started in 2014 has been undertaken annually. The theme had always been "Protecting South African Girls against Cancer of the Cervix". The vaccine is administered in a schedule of two doses at six months interval, targeting all young girls in grade four who are nine years and older in all public schools, including special schools.

The first dose (HPV1) for 2017 which also included deworming of learners from Grade R to Grade 7 in Quintile 1 to 3 schools was administered from 21 February to 28 March 2017. The second dose (HPV2) started on the 22nd August 2017 and will continue until 27th September 2017.

The purpose of this intervention is to prevent cervical cancer and also protect learners against worm infestations. 80% of sexually active people will get an HPV infection during their life. Around 9 000 new cervical cancer cases are diagnosed in Southern Africa per year, with an estimated age-standardised incidence rate of 31.5 per 100 000 women. Data from local studies suggest important regional differences and an increase in the prevalence of cytological abnormalities when compared with historical data. The high prevalence of HIV infection, late initiation of HAART, unscreened population and the high incidence of cervical cancer all suggest that HPV infection and precursors to cervical cancer are both unusually common among Southern African women and may be on the increase.

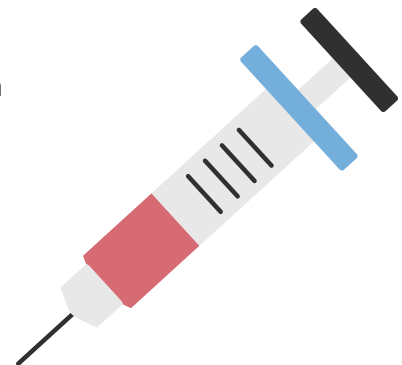
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infects the skin and mucosal epithelium. There are over 150 types of papillomavirus, but only some of them infect humans. A sub-set of HPV types infect the genital epithelium, with the Low Risk types causing genital warts which rarely develop into cancer. When HPV infects the cervix, it usually causes benign lesions. The high risk types can cause lesions which develop into cancer. There are 13 high risk HPV types that cause cervical cancer. In most cases, the immune system will clear the HPV infection.

Cervical cancer is the only type of cancer which is 100% preventable. Although cervical cancer is preventable and treatable, globally nearly 500,000 women suffer from the disease every year, and more than 270,000 die. Eighty percent of these deaths occur in developing countries, where cervical cancer is now the leading cause of cancer-related death among women. Primary prevention through vaccination against the virus, stops the disease before it can start. However, vaccination takes decades to impact. WHO estimate the number of women with cervical cancer will double by 2020, even with vaccination.

"Let's work together to prevent this disease. Teams from the Department of Health will visit public and special education schools during the campaign to administer free HPV vaccination", says member of the Mayoral Committee for Health and Social Development in the City of Johannesburg Cllr Mpho Phalatse.

The MMC urged parents to sign and return the consent forms from the schools that their children attend. 'No learner will be vaccinated without parental consent,' she said.

Educators supported by nurses will also administer deworming to learners from grades R to 7 in Quintile 1 to 3 schools.





Joburg celebrating heritage through books

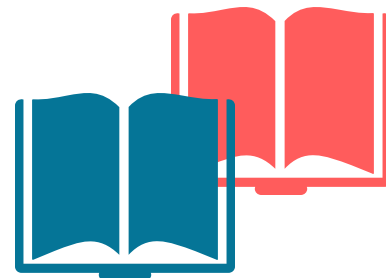
Since the beginning of the month the City has been celebrating the rich culture and heritage represented by the residents and visitors to our beautiful city.

Johannesburg, as the land of opportunity is a microcosm of the entire African nation as it attracts people from all over the world in search of economic opportunities. It is therefore no wonder that Heritage Month is more vibrant in Johannesburg than in any other South African city. Book fairs are ideal platforms to market services and promote access to books to people across all cultural borders and different age groups, as well as an excellent opportunity to promote inclusion and development of community members in a stimulating and exciting manner which broadens their knowledge and information base that will advance pro-poor development that provides meaningful redress.

Ray Bradbury has this to say about culture and its preservation or destruction: "You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them."

To ensure that the rich culture of its people is preserved through reading, the City of Johannesburg hosted 2 Book fairs around the City Centre.

This move also resonated with the City's commitment to rejuvenate the City centre through the rollout of programmes that are accessible and promote cohesion amongst the people.



Jozi Book Fair (2 -3 September)

The Jozi Book Fair was held from the 2nd to 3rd of September in Mary Fitzgerald Square and surrounding areas in Newtown, and entrance was free. The activities ranged from book launches, seminars, exhibitions, film festival, theatre, exhibitions, live jazz and other art forms to aid the people of Joburg to celebrate their diversity. Among the people that presented in the Book fair was the renowned South African author, Zakes Mda.

I was represented by the Acting Executive Director, Nobuntu Mpendulo who attended the JBF Reception held on 1 September 2017. Ms Mpendulo delivered the keynote address and shared the stage with international guests from Kenya and Mauritius, and amongst others, South Africa's writers Kopano Matlwa, Zakes Mda and poet laureate Keorapetse Kgotsile.

A demo library with the look and feel of a public library was created to showcase the services available in public libraries. To accommodate the children visiting the demo library, there were arts and crafts activities and beautiful children's books to browse through. For many children this was their first time experience of a library.

Two career workshops were facilitated by senior staff members of Library Information Services (LIS) who shared their passion and knowledge about their careers in LIS. The objective of the workshops was to encourage young people to pursue a career in Information Science.



In order to increase the library's presence and endorse the message of the importance of reading books to small children, LIS organised professional puppet shows, face painting sessions and storytelling to deliver activities that were highly entertaining to all age groups. To support participation in the book fair LIS organised transport for community members.

South African Book Fair (4th – 10th September)

The SA Book Fair also offered a platform for LIS to market and promote services and reading development programmes offered in the libraries across the city that would translate into greater participation in library programmes and increase usage of the library material.

Can Themba Commemoration Tree

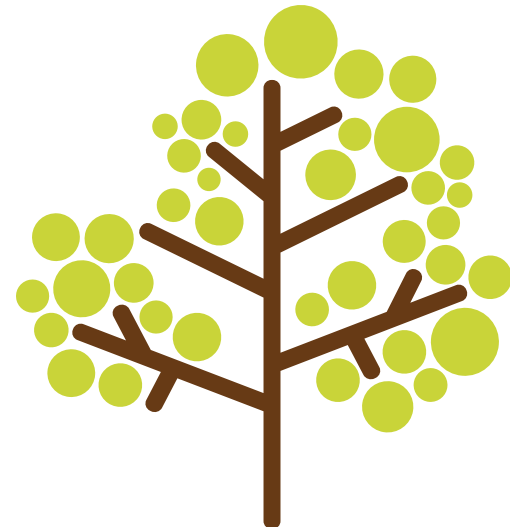
The planting of trees is used as a symbol of seeds planted by influential people that the community acknowledges their contribution, and that their ideals will be nurtured through generations.

On the 8th of September I was honoured to deliver the opening speech, and to be part of planting of the Can Themba Commemoration Tree in Christ the King Anglican Church in Sophiatown.

Daniel Canodoce "Can" Themba was a South African journalist who is remembered for his literary contributions to Drum magazine in the 1950s and 1960s, as well as his collection of short stories. This was a time when black journalists and writers were not really encouraged, so for one to emerge with the prominence of Can Themba was testimony to his character and literary genius.

The commemoration was more appropriate because September 8th was declared by UNESCO as International Literacy Day. So to celebrate the life of the man who was posthumously awarded with the Order of Ikhamanga – South Africa's highest award given to citizens that have excelled in the field of arts and culture, literature, journalism and sport by President Thabo Mbeki was a humbling experience.

The celebration resonated with the commitment of the current administration to deliver programmes that seek redress, and also seek to establish centres around the City that will attract visitors and therefore economic growth.





More swimming pools opened across the City

In addition to the 42 pools that opened on 1st September, 5 more pools were opened to afford the people of Johannesburg an opportunity to enjoy the swimming season.

Isolated incidents of not adhering to the rules of use of public pools are still experienced at some of the pools. I encourage pool users to report these so that we can ensure that the perpetrators are dealt with.

The swimming pools are a great asset that the City offers its residents to cool down during the hot summer days, and to enjoy.

Therefore the City will not allow individuals or groups that seek to use these assets in a way that denies access or enjoyment to the general public.

Upcoming Events

Some of the key events that will be hosted during the month include:

16th September Urban Clash Concert 14:00 – 19:00 Soweto Theatre Free

16th September Acapella Festival The Fringe, Joburg Theatre

12th September – 8th October King Kong Varies Joburg Theatre

23rd September Alex Cultural Day 12:00 – 19:00 Alexandra Free

23rd – 24th September Soweto Heritage Festival Soweto Theatre Free

Entry to most of these events is free, but pre-booking is encouraged to avoid disappointment.





JMPD K-9 Unit arrests suspect in possession of Nyaope worth R19 000

A male suspect has appeared in the Roodepoort Magistrates Court this week for possession of Nyaope worth an estimated R19 000.

This follows after the Johannesburg Metro Police Department (JMPD) pulled a suspicious looking BMW 3-series over during a routine stop-and-search operation on Monday, along Main Reef Road.

As officials charged with keep our residents safe, we will not rest until our streets are rid of drug-dealers who destroy communities with their criminal enterprise.

In November 2016, the City launched its specialised JMPD K-9 Unit, which have had numerous successful drug-busts since its establishment. An additional 1500 JMPD officers will also soon join the City to ensure that visibility in our communities increase.

Over the course of the past year, the City has continually stated that law enforcement in Johannesburg will relentlessly pursue drug dealers using intelligence at its disposal.

The City's Social Development Department is also working closely with communities through anti-drug awareness and education campaigns and will be rolling out drug rehabilitation centres across five regions, with the first roll out scheduled for October 2017.

Drugs are often linked to a variety of social, psychological, financial and health issues, which are tearing our communities apart and are stealing our children's futures.

It is for this reason that the City remains committed to fighting crime and drugs plaguing our communities, and we will do everything in our power to ensure that criminals cannot rest in Johannesburg and that residents are kept safe.

JMPD nabs criminals in high speed

The JMPD and SAPS pursued four suspects in a high speed chase on Main Reef Road on the 12 September. The suspects were identified by the police in the Central Business District of Roodepoort.

When police approached the suspects, they sped off in a getaway vehicle. The patrolling JMPD officers joined the pursuit and immediately gave chase, the suspects fired shots at the police officers and the JMPD patrol car was hit. The suspects lost control of their car and crashed into a wall in Winze Street in Fleurhoof.

The suspects were arrested and four firearms recovered. One suspect sustained bullet wound to his head and other three suffered serious injuries. None of the officers were injured.

All four suspects have been charged with attempted murder, illegal possession of fire arms and reckless driving.

Our approach of solid and intensified visible policing is effective in reducing and curbing crime. This is a clear message to the criminals that there is no way to run and the only place they can stop running is in the prison.



City loses another JMPD officer

Last Friday, 8 September the City lost yet another JMPD officer.

Whilst conducting a Stop-and-Search operation on the Golden Highway, Officer Hlomuka was knocked down and critically injured by a bus.

The bus driver faces serious criminal charges of reckless driving and culpable homicide in the Lenasia Magistrate court. Officer Hlomuka served the City with diligence and integrity for the past 13 years in both Region F and G.

The death of Officer Hlomuka comes just a week after the killing of Officer Meso whom was also critically injured whilst directing traffic by a reckless driver.

The news of Officer Hlomuka's passing come as shock especially so soon after we had laid to rest another fellow officer just a week ago. I must appeal to motorists to slow down when approaching our officers and obey all the road safety rules.

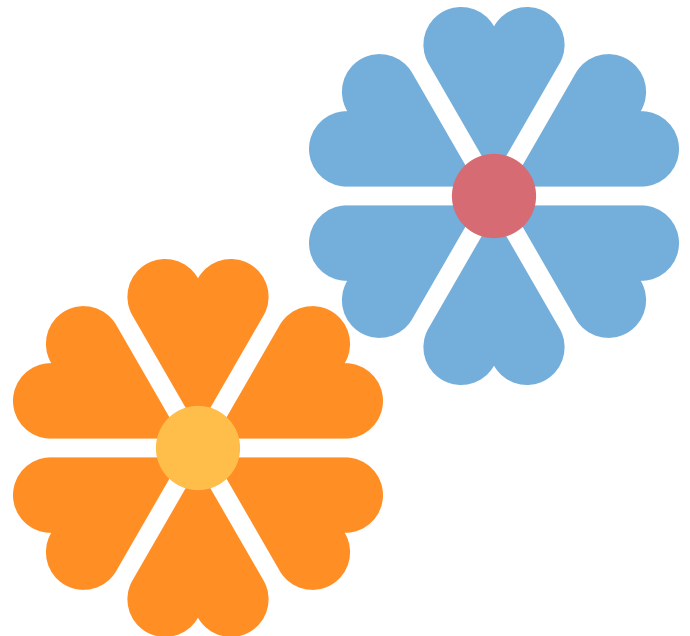
Our officers risk their lives to keep the resident safe and the least we can do is to ensure that they work in a safer environment.

On Thursday, 14 September JMPD held a wreath laying ceremony on the Golden Highway and Provincial Road near Finetown where the officer was killed.

This ceremony will be followed by a memorial service in honour of Officer Hlomuka's hard work and dedication to serving the City.

The officer will be laid to rest on Saturday 16 September 2017 at his home in Soweto

He is survived by his wife and children. May his soul rest in peace.





Fordburg clean-up campaign

Pikitup the Waste Management Company of South Africa responded to a clarion call from the National Clean Up and Recycling week by cleaning the streets of Fordsburg, south of Johannesburg.

The Fordsburg clean-up campaign apart from responding to the passionate plea of the National Clean-Up and Recycling week in South Africa also served as prelude to the A Re Sebetseng campaign.

The A Re Sebetseng campaign – is a flagship Mayoral campaign – that calls on Johannesburg residents to clean up their surroundings on the 30 of each month.

During the Fordsburg clean-up campaign Pikitup was joined by University of Johannesburg Students, members of the Fordsburg Revival Forum, Interim and members of the Interim Johannesburg Reclaimers Committee.

Councillor for the ward Mr Alex Christians addressing the gathering before the resumption of the clean-up campaign said a clean area is conducive for business investments in the area that will lead to job creation.

He urged the re-claimers to consider the needs of the residents when searching their dustbins in search for recyclable materials saying: “please do so in such a manner that waste that is not recyclable is not left on people’s pavements.”

The National Clean-Up and Recycle South Africa Week, is an annual calendar event that takes place from the 11 to the 17 of September, in which various clean-ups are undertaken throughout the country where communities volunteer their time and effort to clean their neighbourhoods.

The highlight of the event is the International Coastal Clean-Up Day which will be taking place on 16 of September.

During Pikitup’s event a speaker for Interim Johannesburg Re-claimers committee express his delight on working hand in glove with Pikitup to clean the city.





Power restored to Inner City

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my fellow colleague, Cllr Khumalo, MMC for Corporate and Shared Services for acting in my place as I was away. Under her stewardship, the City managed to restore power to the Inner City.

MMC Khumalo yesterday afternoon conducted a site visit to the Inner City Restoration Centre, and through that reported that as of yesterday morning, 100% of power has been restored after cable theft plunged parts of the inner city in to darkness for 11 days.

Toxic chemicals and fire prevented City Power officials from immediately entering the narrow, 9km long tunnel to restore power, and only at around 22:00 on Tuesday (12 Sept 2017), City Power technicians were able to restore electricity supply to areas which were affected by the power interruption in the Johannesburg City Centre.

Unfortunately, electricity tripped during the restoration period, and Rahima Moosa (Jeppe) Street, Plein Street, Pritchard Street, Kerk Street and Lillian Ngoyi (Bree) Street were affected again.

By yesterday, only a small portion of Plein Street was still down, and by this morning all power has been restored.

We condemn the vandalism and theft of City Infrastructure by these organized copper cable syndicates, and we call upon the general public to be vigilant and report all suspicious activities to 0860 562 874.

Law enforcement agencies have been put on high alert to fight this scourge and our specialised JMPD unit - whose exclusive focus will be to target these syndicates who deal in in stolen copper cables – will also ensure that a professionalised approach is taken to ensure purpotrators are held to account.

I would like to thank the officials and contractors from City Power for their commitment under very challenging conditions, and our sincere gratitude goes to all affected residents and businesses owners who bared with us while our officials worked around the clock to undo the unscrupulous work of criminals.





Rehabilitation and Erosion Protection of Fourways Stream

Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) has embarked on the final phase of the rehabilitation and erosion protection of the Fourways stream, between Fourways Mall Dam and Fourways Gardens Dam in Fourways Extension 16.

The project is focused on the preservation, conservation and protection of our natural environment. The final phase of the rehabilitation and erosion protection is estimated at R2.5 million and is expected to be completed by the end of October 2017. The project involves the removal of vegetation and debris from eroded sections of the river, clearing, excavation and shaping of the affected section of the river bank, construction of a weir structure and retaining wall, stormwater outlet channel and the removal of tree trunks from the waterline. Water flow diversions or coffer dams are used during construction to divert water from the affected sections.

The project includes the following areas:

- Construction of gabion river bank protection along the water course between Granite and Uranium Roads within Witkoppen Park.
- Construction of a V-Drain Channel at the stormwater outlet from Fairfield Estate after Granite Road going to Uranium Road.
- Reconstruction, maintaining and addition of the connecting weir between Granite Road and Uranium Road and after Uranium Road Fourways Gardens Estate.

Executive Mayor, Cllr Herman Mashaba launch Sandton Transport Loop and Rea Vaya bus and Pedestrian Bridge on the 5th of September 2017

On Tuesday the 5th September 2017, the Johannesburg Executive Mayor, Cllr, Herman Mashaba launched a number of improvements to transport infrastructure in Sandton including a public transport loop and the Rea Vaya pedestrian and bus bridge located along Lees street over the M1 North at Marlboro.

The Sandton Public Transport Loop is a bold infrastructure initiative that includes the construction of a dedicated left lane for public Transport, which forms a loop along Rivonia Road, left into Fredman Drive, Left into Fifth Street, and left into Rivonia Road.





From the 18th of September 2017, public transport in the Sandton CBD will use the Public Transport loop, moving in an anticlockwise direction.

Bus shelters have been erected for easy commuting and to offer protection from weather elements.

Private cars may need to enter or leave the loop to access building but will not be allowed to travel on the loop.

The Sandton Public Transport loop has been developed in partnership with Gautrain, Metrobus, Putco, minibus taxis and the Sandton Central Management District.

Mayor Mashaba spoke about the City of Johannesburg's economic growth being reliant on infrastructure investment in Sandton and that transport has been essential to economic development of any nation.

The MMC for Transport spoke about the role of public transport in supporting the City's pillar on pro –poor development.

Transport plays a significant role in connecting the historically displaced communities to business opportunities in the inner-city of Johannesburg and other business hubs such as the Sandton CBD.





City spearheads first of a kind entrepreneurship ecosystem symposium

The City's Department of Economic Development (DED) is preparing to host a Joburg Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Symposium to address and improve entrepreneurial ecosystems, in order to grow the economy and facilitate job creation.

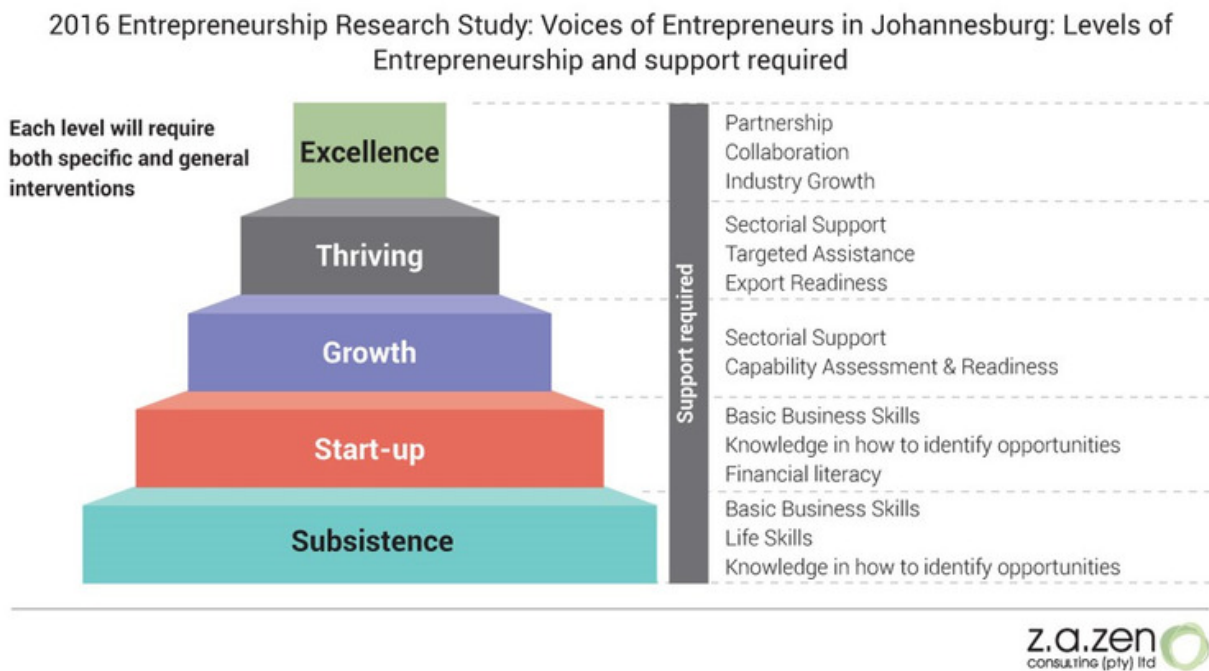
Catering for delegates drawn from the City's seven regions, the Symposium is set to take place at the Joburg Theatre on 23 & 24 October 2017.

This will be the first entrepreneurship ecosystem symposium in Johannesburg – a gathering of government, private sector, educational institutions, NGO'S and, most importantly, entrepreneurs. The purpose of the entrepreneurship ecosystem symposium is to create actionable plans that will assist in growing entrepreneurship.

As per the department of Economic Development's 17/18 Financial Year deliverables, we have committed to increased regional economic development and support towards entrepreneurial development. In order to succeed, such an approach can only work through stronger alignment between the department and regional offices as well as collaboration between the city, private sector and small businesses.

This is a citywide event, looking at affirming the city's position on entrepreneurship and future working groups with regional offices, small business, the private sector (Business Chambers), academics and industry players.

Leading up to the citywide symposium will be a series of Regional Economic Summits, which the DED will run in partnership with the regions.





Site-visits to Inner City

On Wednesday I took part in a site visit to three wards within the Inner City to engage with Councillors on challenges that are facing their areas. Cllrs Mashao, Tyobeka and Shezi were each allocated two hours wherein they could take me and the delegation of officials from various departments and entities around their wards, individually identifying problem areas that somewhat contribute to the degeneration of the city centre.

This forms part of my commitment to Region F Councillors made during my engagements with them in our one-on-one meetings held in the 2016/2017 financial year.

Johannesburg Development Agency

The City of Johannesburg, represented by Johannesburg Development Agency, Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo, Public Safety and Development Planning departments, together with UN-Habitat and the University of the Witwatersrand kicked off the Building the Public City, which coincided with the Fak'Ugesi Festival in Braamfontein, from September 6 to 16. Building the Public City entails using innovative technology to generate ideas for input into the design of Public Open Spaces.

The UN's Habitat, through its Block by Block programme, hosted an open digital design workshop on September 8 and 9.

Students and members of the public made use of Minecraft, an easy-to-use 3D modelling programme, to develop actual designs for a public space around the Eland sculpture at Stiemens Street, between Bertha and De Beer streets. The best designs from the Minecraft will be used to develop the final design and the results will be presented on September 16th, during which users can experience the proposed design within the real space using cuttingedge mixed reality technologies.

A presentation on mixed-reality design will be made on Saturday, 16 September. The workshop will have several two-hour slots.





City aims to boost its coffers with an innovative policy

SA is at an economic crossroads. The economy continues to weaken, and the IMF estimates growth will be below 0.5%. A number of causal factors explain our economic tragedy, including softening industrial output, a weakening and volatile currency and political risk, which unsettles investors.

Credit risk spreads are not improving, and, with the sovereign credit rating in negative outlook, a further adverse sovereign movement may be in the offing.

The status quo must shift. The theory of public policy tells us that intelligent problem structuring and the execution of effective public programmes is a precursor to development.

As the policy leader of the Johannesburg finance portfolio, I believe our policy designs are informed by the need to grow the city's economy, accelerate infrastructure development, tackle bottlenecks, and increase revenue and — yes — assist in the broader transformation of the financial services sector.

Against this background, I will be proposing to the mayoral committee and the municipal council that the city establishes what I have named the Contingency Reserve Fund.

This will be used to finance infrastructure development and will contribute to reducing the more than R170bn infrastructure backlog.

This initiative is a prudent approach that will assist in restoring cash balances if they fall below acceptable levels and will also accommodate excess financial receipts, especially those secured through non-traditional revenue streams.

Importantly, I will further propose that an appropriate governance structure be in place to monitor the fund and all other investment initiatives. Our administration is committed to a pro-poor budget, and this financing initiative aims to provide innovative instruments to fund the city's service delivery mandate and stimulate local economic growth.

One of my intentions is to use my position to advance the transformation of the financial service sector and the upliftment of the black asset management industry.

Therefore, in the midst of a weakened national economy, our administration elects to walk the trailblazing path that draws on its foundation and provides economic leadership.

Our economic and financial dreams are a deliberate move towards the realm of treasury innovations. Our financial innovation will build and extend the good work done by other treasury policy wonks who came before us.

The City of Johannesburg embraces financial investment innovations as stimuli of economic progress and solutions for development and that will make all the difference.





Meeting with Meadowland Hostel Leadership

The MMC had a meeting with Meadowlands hostel leadership to discuss the follow-up visit by the MEC to report back on the progress for the hostels redevelopment .In light of the above, the leadership has request an urgent meeting with the MEC for clarity on the future of the hostels development prior to allocations.

Thembelihle Crisis Committee meeting with Region G Housing

The MMC met with the Thembelihle Crisis Committee for a presentation on Thembelihle Geo Tech. The Thembelihle Crisis Committee committed to consult with their geologists and we will revert back to MMC with the report, as they were not satisfied with the presentation done by City's geologist. A follow up meeting will be scheduled.

Meeting with Davidsonville Community Forum

The MMC held a meeting with Region C, Sectional Titles deeds unit and Davidsonville Community Forum to discuss issues affecting the Davidsonville residents. Also discussed were issues around the allocation dates of these units, Land Available for new Housing, Ghost-town and Rainbow Valley land , Rainbow Valley (Row Houses) relocation to RDP housing Fleurhof. It was agreed that Region C housing can only register the potential beneficiaries and it was also resolved that the Office of MMC Ntuli will initiate a process for addressing both title deeds and Fleurhof registrations.

Vlakfontein Business Forum Meeting

Vlakfontein SSME's have put the project on hold due to non-skills development from the Main contractor, and non-payment to CLO, a meeting will be held between MMC and Project Manager to try and resolve this matter.
Alexandra Land Task Team

Meeting to discuss progress report on issuing of title deeds at Alexandra and Alexandra Land Properties Owners has requested that the Statement of Intent to documented, MMC will therefore bring the proposal to the attention of the Executive Mayor.

