

MEDIA STATEMENT

City Power launches Inner City streetlights and festive Christmas lights displays



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The City of Johannesburg Executive Mayor, Cllr Dada Morero, tonight led the official launch of City Power's Inner City streetlights and Christmas light displays, marking a significant milestone in the City's efforts to enhance safety, visibility and vibrancy during the festive season. The Mayor was joined by the MMC for Environment and Infrastructure Services (EISD), Cllr Jack Sekwaila, Cllr Sithembiso Hlatshwayo, Regional Director Irene Mafume and City Power's Executive Leadership.

This year's installation brings newly illuminated festive displays that brighten the Inner City skyline and signal the start of a more joyful and welcoming holiday period. The event began with a guided tour through the illuminated routes, including Maboneng, Gandhi Square, and the stretches along Rissik, Smith, Eloff, Wolmarans, Harrison, Plein, King George and De Villiers Streets. These festive displays symbolise renewed hope, enhanced safety and the City's commitment to restoring vibrancy to Johannesburg's public spaces.

As part of the Inner City Regeneration Programme, festive light installations began several weeks ago along streets including De Villiers, Noord, Plein, Wolmarans, Commissioner and Rissik. Fourteen displays have already been completed on De Villiers Street, with the remainder nearing completion. The Christmas lights were refurbished using existing stock from previous years, cleaned and repaired to reduce costs, with most of the work delivered by internal City Power teams. These vibrant installations, combined with the repaired and newly installed streetlights, are intended to make the Inner City more welcoming during the holiday season and reaffirm the City's commitment to restoring Johannesburg's historic identity as "Jozi Maboneng", the City of Lights.

The Executive Mayor, Cllr Dada Morero, emphasised that the lighting rollout forms part of his broader vision to restore confidence in the Inner City and restore the City as Jozi Maboneng.

"We want residents to trust that we can deliver. That is why we are installing public lighting and festive displays street by street, to bring hope and demonstrate our commitment to reclaiming the Inner City. We thank the communities in Wards 59, 123, 60 and surrounding areas for their support, and we urge residents to keep their streets clean and avoid illegal dumping," said Mayor Morero.

“We are on the right path to recovering and rebuilding our City. Our goal is a safer Johannesburg where people can walk freely, feel safe, carry their phones without fear, and enjoy functional public lighting supported by the rollout of more solar high masts across the City. We want to bring back ‘Jozi maboneng’ and ensure people feel proud of their City once more,” added Mayor Morero.

In acknowledging the work behind these achievements, the MMC for EISD, Cllr Jack Sekwaila, commended the teams responsible for the rapid improvements in lighting across the City.

“I want to express my sincere appreciation to the dedicated City Power workers who restored and installed the lights now illuminating the Inner City and communities across Johannesburg. Your commitment, delivered under tight timelines, is helping us keep Joburg safe and supporting law enforcement efforts to curb crime,” asserted Cllr Sekwaila.

Reinforcing the Executive Mayor’s vision, City Power Chief Commercial Officer, Thamsanqa Mathiso, said the work reflects a renewed commitment to service delivery.

“We are here to demonstrate the Executive Mayor’s vision that we can light up the City. We are adding more lights across Johannesburg and showcasing the work already underway. This is about uplifting the festive spirit, but also about building on the progress made during the G20 preparations so that residents experience reliable service delivery in their daily lives. We are returning the City to its glory days and want the residents and visitors to enjoy and experience the spirit of Jozi Maboneng of old,” said Mathiso.

City Power operates one of the country’s largest public lighting networks, managing nearly 300,000 streetlights across Johannesburg, including Eskom supplied areas such as Soweto, Sandton and Diepsloot. In the 2024/2025 FY fourth quarter, the City Power installed 1,139 new streetlights, well above the 700 target, while also upgrading 700 LED streetlights. The renewable-energy programme continues to grow, with 143 new solar high-mast lights installed over the past financial year.

While these investments are improving lighting across the city, theft and vandalism remain major obstacles, resulting in close to R60 million in losses and 298 infrastructure related crimes in the last quarter alone. Joint operations with law enforcement have intensified, leading to 82 arrests and 14 convictions, receiving a combined 86 years of imprisonment, along with targeted actions to curb illegal connections.

Despite these challenges, City Power has significantly improved its service, reducing the average response time for streetlight repairs from up to two weeks to only 48 hours, an important achievement as the City enters the busy festive season and prioritises safer, well lit public spaces and streets.

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