



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG
METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY



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Christmas Message by the Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, Councillor Dada Morero

Fellow residents of Johannesburg, partners in business, faith leaders, workers, comrades, and compatriots,

As we gather with our families and loved ones to celebrate Christmas—a season marked by renewal, reflection, and hope—I extend my warmest wishes to every resident of our great city. Christmas reminds us that, even in challenging times, collective effort, compassion, and decisive leadership can usher in new beginnings. Let us come together as a city to embrace the spirit of unity and community this festive season.

Johannesburg remains the heartbeat of South Africa's economy and the economic capital of Africa. This festive season offers us an opportunity not only to reflect on how far we have come, but also to recommit ourselves to building a city that works — a city that is inclusive, resilient and future-focused.

Celebrating a City That Delivered

This year, Johannesburg rose to the occasion on the global stage by successfully hosting G20-related engagements. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the people of Johannesburg, our municipal workers, law enforcement agencies, transport teams, the hospitality sector and the business community for a job exceptionally well done. You demonstrated to the world that Johannesburg is capable, organised and globally competitive. From logistics and infrastructure to safety, mobility and urban management, our city delivered with professionalism and pride. This achievement reinforces Johannesburg's standing as a world-class African city and a trusted host of major international gatherings. Thank you for flying the Jozi flag high.

Water Security: Turning Crisis into Transformation

We fully acknowledge the frustrations residents have experienced due to water supply challenges. These difficulties are real, and they demand honest leadership and decisive action. This administration has responded by accelerating infrastructure upgrades, reducing water losses and strengthening coordination with Rand Water and national partners. The water crisis has become a catalyst for transformation, compelling us to build a more resilient, efficient, and accountable water system for the long term.

Energy Stability and a Power-Ready City

City Power remains central to the functioning of our economy and daily life. While power disruptions have tested the patience of residents and businesses, significant investments are being made in network refurbishment, maintenance capacity and the development of alternative energy solutions. Our objective is clear: to stabilise supply, support economic growth and prepare Johannesburg for a diversified and sustainable energy future.

Reclaiming the Inner City — Together

Through our Inner-City Rejuvenation Programme, the Bad Buildings Strategy and the "Jozi My Jozi" campaign, we are restoring dignity, cleanliness and order in our inner city. Clean streets, safe public spaces and functional buildings are essential to economic revival and social cohesion. The ANC-led government

of local unity in the City of Johannesburg is working with the private sector, property owners, informal traders, civil society, and community-based organisations to clean, repair, and revitalise the inner city.

These partnerships prove that when government, business and communities collaborate, visible change follows. I wish to extend my appreciation to the 77 CEOs and captains of industry who responded to the City's Call to Action by joining forces with our Rapid Response Unit, including the Bomb Squad, in reclaiming our city. This historic collaboration marks a turning point in our collective effort to restore Johannesburg.

Zero Tolerance for Corruption

Let me be unequivocal: corruption will not be tolerated. It undermines service delivery, destroys trust and robs communities of their future. This festive message carries a stern warning — any official or service provider who steals from the people of Johannesburg will face decisive consequences. We are strengthening oversight, improving procurement transparency and protecting whistle-blowers. Ethical and clean governance is non-negotiable.

Marching Confidently Towards 2026

As we look ahead to the 2026 local government elections, the City of Johannesburg remains focused on renewal, delivery and people-centred development. Our task is to consolidate Johannesburg's role as a globally competitive African city while improving the daily lived experience of its residents. We do not claim perfection, but we commit to hard work, accountability and continuous improvement.

This Christmas, let us choose hope over despair, unity over division and action over excuses. Together, we will continue building a Johannesburg that leads Africa, inspires confidence and delivers for its people. I wish you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR