



Media Statement by Johannesburg Management Committee of the joint caucus of the multiparty government

Johannesburg coalition partners stand firmly behind Speaker's decision to elect Committee Chairpersons

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The City of Johannesburg coalition partners note the position taken by the ANC to petition the Gauteng MEC of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Lebogang Maile, to unnecessarily intervene in the affairs of the Council.

The coalition partners stand firmly of the view that the Speaker, Cllr Vasco Da Gama, correctly applied his mind and the rules of Council in the sitting that took place last week Thursday (27 January 2022), that successfully elected 16 out of the 17 Chairpersons of the Portfolio Committees of Council. This was important because it cannot be accepted that the work of the Council is continuously interrupted by people who are solely bent on pursuing a power grab at the expense of the residents of Johannesburg.

The Speaker continued the meeting in terms of the adjournment that occurred in the previous meeting of Council. The adjournment arose from a lack of a quorum, and the standing rules of Council provide that if there is a loss of a quorum, the meeting is adjourned and the meeting continues from that point at the next meeting.

Moreover, in the previous meeting the ANC and the EFF, along with smaller parties, withdrew their candidates, which is a matter of record as captured in the minutes. This action taken by the aforementioned parties means that each one of the coalition candidates for the 17 positions were unopposed.

Subsequently, the Speaker correctly went through motions of electing each candidate unopposed in terms of the procedure that is articulated in the standing rules of Council.

The coalition partners are confident that any challenge to the Speaker's decision would not succeed. In fact such a challenges will be a waste of time, moreover a waste of money to those bringing the challenge.

Once again we stand firm, and we congratulate the Speaker. We insist that work of the Council must go on, unimpeded. The residents of Johannesburg deserve nothing less.

Media enquiries:

Cllr Gert Niemand
Joint Caucus Chairperson
073 549 3111

Cllr John Moodey
Joint Caucus Deputy Chairperson
082 960 3743