



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

Councillor Belinda Echezonjoku

Caucus Leader of the Democratic Alliance

TO : Mr Velenkosini Hlabisa, MP
Minister for COGTA

CC : Mr Jacob Mamabolo, MPL
MEC for COGTA, Gauteng Province

DATE : 30 October 2024

SUBJECT : Service Delivery Governance Concerns – City of Johannesburg

Dear Hon. Minister Hlabisa,

The above matter bears reference.

This letter is directed to the Honourable Minister on behalf of the Democratic Alliance (DA) Caucus, the Official Opposition in the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality. We have written in the near past to the Executive Mayor, Group Head: Corporate Governance and Shared Services as well as to the City Manager demanding that the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Johannesburg Property Company (JPC) – an entity of the City - be rescinded. We have also requested the details of the HR processes and documentation that should unfold prior to an appointment of the CEO. We are still awaiting their response. (**See attached**)

We are very concerned about the lack of accountability in the City of Johannesburg by the Executive and officials to implement findings by organs of state such as the SIU.

- We had the irregular appointment of the City Manager, which is currently in court.
- Complaints were laid against the CEO: JPC, Ms Helen Botes, regarding alleged PPE corruption, with serious findings against her, and to date no action has been taken. All efforts to get accountability from the City seem to be failing.

- Now Ms Helen Botes' employment contract, which had already expired, has irregularly been extended without following any due process.
- The City has a portfolio of 32 000 properties and, sadly, none of the revenue generated from these municipal assets can be properly accounted for.
- The Khampepe report into Usindiso Fire also mentions JPC and yet nothing is being done.
- There are allegations that Ms Helen Botes is protected by politicians, which is why everyone is failing to hold her accountable for all the allegations of wrongdoing.
- Residents are taking the City to court due to billing issues and we have yet to determine how much the City is spending on these court cases.
- The DA has approached the courts to request that the current VIP protection policy be reviewed and set aside.
- We recently had the protests by EPWP workers at Pikitup due to alleged corruption and the employment of persons related to ANC regional leaders without following due process.
- Joburg Water has members of the boards who allegedly own companies that are doing business with different spheres of government – something that presents a clear conflict of interest because the board is supposed to perform oversight over the entity.
- The City Manager is failing to implement the findings of the SIU on financial misconduct by the JPC's CEO and the CFO.
- Monies have been paid to suppliers at the Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) for the rehabilitation of the Lilian Ngoyi Street, which exploded last year. The deadline for completion has yet again been extended while businesses and commuters transiting through the CBD continue to be inconvenienced.
- Questions submitted by the Opposition for written reply by the Executive sometimes get deferred instead of being responded to in order to entrench democratic accountability.

I request the Minister's intervention in the form of an investigation into all the entities of the City of Johannesburg because budgets are allocated, but residents suffer due to a lack of service delivery. In particular, a closer attention should be given to the boards of the JPC, Pikitup, JRA and Joburg Water where there are allegations of perennial conflicts of interest and political interference.

I look forward to your urgent attention and response to this matter.

Sincerely,



Clr Belinda Kayser-Echeozonjoku
DA Johannesburg Caucus Leader