



Gauteng Provincial Head Office
Provincial Leader: Solly Msimanga
Provincial Chairperson: Fred Nel
Provincial Director: Natachia Prinsloo
Tel: +27 10 593 3020

To: President Cyril Ramaphosa
From: Solly Msimanga MPL, Leader of the Opposition in the Gauteng
Legislature and DA Gauteng Leader
Date: 26 March 2025
Subject: An open letter to President Cyril Ramaphosa regarding Johannesburg

Dear Mr. President,

You recently visited the City of Johannesburg and engaged with Mayor Morero and the city's leadership as well as Premier Lesufi about the state that the city found itself in. You called on the Premier and the leadership of the various metros to make Gauteng presentable to the G20 summit it will be hosting this year.

It is a pity that it took the hosting of the G20, where you want to present a city in tip-top shape to the world, to move you to action. The residents of Gauteng have been lamenting the visible degradation of our province for the last 25 years. Something you surely should have noticed since your seat of government as well as your party's head office is situated here.

Gauteng and Johannesburg find itself in a terrible state due to the mismanagement of municipalities and the concomitant corruption by successive ANC administrations who never cared for the citizens of the province but only how they could personally benefit. It is therefore disappointing that your motivation to intervene in Johannesburg and Gauteng is motivated by the G20 meetings and not because you care about the citizens of our province. Maybe for that reason we should be thankful that Johannesburg is hosting the G20 so that the citizens of this wonderful city can finally benefit from service delivery they deserve.

After your visit to Gauteng concluded you announced a multi-level intervention by establishing a Johannesburg Presidential Working Group to improve the city's governance, financial situation as well as its infrastructure. This intervention by you clearly points to a failure by the leadership of the municipality as well as that of the provincial government to realise the decay that Johannesburg has suffered. This is one of the reasons the DA has consistently called for new elections in Johannesburg so that new, dedicated leadership can replace the current chaotic coalition.

I am not sure what the legal standing of your Presidential Working Group is but I assume it intends to function through voluntary intergovernmental cooperation

FREEDOM. FAIRNESS. OPPORTUNITY. DIVERSITY.



Gauteng Provincial Head Office
Provincial Leader: Solly Msimanga
Provincial Chairperson: Fred Nel
Provincial Director: Natachia Prinsloo
Tel: +27 10 593 3020

between the Presidency, the city and the province, or do you intend and intervention in terms of Section 100 of the Constitution?

It is my plea to you that the Working Group adheres to the following conditions when it starts its work.

1. It must consult the residents of Johannesburg and ensure that their views and needs are recognised and taken into consideration during the intervention as envisaged in Sections 195(1)(e), (f) and (g) of the Constitution. This also includes regular feedback to the residents of Johannesburg on any progress made.
2. Transparent oversight mechanisms must be created in all three legislative spheres to ensure that the interventions are managed in accordance to proper corporate governance principles including ensuring value for money, delivery on-time and within budget as well as merit-based appointments of any contractors or vendors.
3. Automatic criminal charges must be laid against anyone found to have circumvented supply chain processes or regulations or committed any form of fraud or corruption during the intervention.
4. All interventions must seek to generate sustainable solutions to the problems currently faced by the residents of Johannesburg and include mechanisms to ensure that standards are maintained to prevent the decay of services and infrastructure in future.

In order to contribute to the above, we will be launching a portal for the residents of Gauteng to list areas where your Presidential Working Group should intervene in the province. We are also attaching a preliminary submission to yourself on how and where we suggest the Working Group should place their focus.

As always, we will also keep a close eye on the work of the Working Group to ensure that proper oversight is conducted over their work.

The deterioration of infrastructure in services in Johannesburg and Gauteng, with the exception of the DA-governed Midvaal, threatens our provincial and national economies. South Africa is dependent on a Gauteng province that makes a telling



Gauteng Provincial Head Office
Provincial Leader: Solly Msimanga
Provincial Chairperson: Fred Nel
Provincial Director: Natachia Prinsloo
Tel: +27 10 593 3020

contribution to its GDP, a responsibility it will have to shoulder long after the G20 has departed our shores.

Any intervention must have as its objective long-term sustainable growth and job creation for Johannesburg and Gauteng.

Mr President, this intervention cannot be a quick fix or short-term focused, it must leave a legacy that we can use to turn Gauteng and Johannesburg around long after the G20. The intervention and its accompanying investment must bring about a long-term solution for Gauteng and its residents.

Yours Sincerely,

Solly Msimanga

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Solly Msimanga'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'S' and a long, sweeping underline.