



Building Sustainable Future: Paving Lillian Ngoyi
"The most complex part of this project lay beneath the surface"

#ExecutiveMayorMorero

Dear Residents of Johannesburg,

As we navigate the aftermath of the tragic explosion on Lilian Ngoyi Street, we must honour the memory of the one person who died and recognise the ongoing struggles faced by those injured and displaced. This tragedy has had a profound impact on our community. It left a wide gash in the heart of our central business district.

This area is not merely a road; it serves as a vital economic corridor that supports many small businesses, informal traders, taxi operators, and pedestrians who depend on it for their livelihoods. The loss goes beyond financial costs; it disrupts lives and livelihoods, and we must act decisively to mend what has been broken.

Since the launch of Phase 1 on Monday, 1 September 2025, I have actively engaged with your concerns regarding the rehabilitation of Lilian Ngoyi Street, particularly regarding our choice to use paving bricks instead of traditional tar. This decision was deliberate. Paving bricks are more suitable for this high-traffic area. They offer superior durability compared to tar, which tends to deteriorate quickly under heavy use. Paving also allows for easier maintenance, as individual blocks can be replaced without needing to redo the entire surface. Environmentally, this choice promotes better stormwater drainage and aligns with our commitment to sustainability, as paving materials are often recyclable.

It is also essential to clarify some misconceptions regarding the timeline of this project. While some may believe we took too long to complete the paving, the reality is that much of that time was spent on critical infrastructure work beneath the surface. The old brick-built subterranean tunnel was overhauled and replaced with a reinforced concrete culvert system.

We separated utilities such as stormwater, electrical lines, and other services, which now operate independently. Rails for secure electrical infrastructure and gas ventilation systems were also installed

throughout the tunnel to prevent future build-ups that could lead to catastrophic incidents. This comprehensive engineering overhaul was not merely an upgrade; it was a crucial prevention strategy to ensure community safety moving forward.

I have also heard your calls for transparency in contract management. I assure you that the City operates with integrity and adheres to strict procedures in selecting contractors. According to the JRA, the first contractor was dismissed due to their failure to meet established performance standards, despite multiple interventions. Subsequently, a new contractor was appointed through a lawful and competitive process overseen by the City's Bid Committees, which maintained rigorous oversight at every stage. The JRA has assured me that the successful bidder met stringent requirements, including CIDB 9CE compliance, verification of financial stability, and confirmed tax compliance, ensuring that public funds are managed responsibly.

Our commitment extends beyond just the physical rebuilding of Lilian Ngoyi Street. We are resolute in our mission to keep it safe and vibrant for all users. Regular inspections and maintenance of the paving, drainage systems, and lighting will be a priority. JRA, City Power, Joburg Water, and Pikitup will ensure the area remains clean and serviced.

The Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department, in conjunction with our urban management teams, will provide ongoing patrols and monitoring to prevent vandalism and enforce municipal by-laws. It is crucial that we collaborate with traders, businesses, and residents to foster a sense of community ownership and responsibility for our public spaces. This project represents not only a restoration of infrastructure but also an investment in our community's economic vitality.

To date, we have allocated R26 million to support small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMME). This has resulted in the direct support of 27 SMMEs and the creation of 68 new jobs in our community. It is essential to remember that our success is rooted in our ability to collaborate. Lilian Ngoyi Street is a critical connector for our community, serving as a foundation for our economy and a catalyst for future growth.

Together, we will not just repair Johannesburg; we will reimagine it as a thriving metro where all residents have the opportunity to achieve their fullest potential.

Until next time,

Johannesburg Executive Mayor Councillor Sello Dada Morero