



Dear residents of Johannesburg,

As the Executive Mayor of Johannesburg and a proud resident of this great city, I wish to take a moment to reflect on our shared journey toward building a stronger, more resilient, and financially sustainable Johannesburg.

The past year has not been without challenges. Economic pressures and long-standing financial constraints have tested our resolve. Many residents have felt the impact of rising living costs and the need for improved and consistent service delivery.

We understand these challenges and stand alongside you as we navigate them together.

Yet, amid these trials, there is much to be proud of. Since 2023, when I served as the MMC for Finance, our administration has worked tirelessly to restore financial stability, strengthen governance, and build confidence in the City's financial management systems. Through discipline, transparency, and teamwork, we have turned challenges into opportunities for growth and progress.

GCR Ratings' recent credit rating review confirms the positive trajectory we are on as it has affirmed the City of Johannesburg's long-term national scale issuer rating at A(ZA) and short-term rating at A1(ZA). More significantly, our outlook has improved from negative to stable. This ratings review is a decisive vote of confidence in the City's financial recovery and governance.

It reflects the collective effort of a City administration committed to fiscal prudence and accountability, as well as the trust and resilience of our residents, who continue to believe in Johannesburg's future. Our comprehensive financial recovery plan is already bearing fruit. We are optimising expenditure, enhancing revenue management, and improving operational efficiencies.

These measures ensure that the City not only meets its obligations but also secures a sustainable future for future generations. While challenges remain, we face them with renewed optimism. Every improvement in financial control, every innovation in service delivery, and every investment in our communities reflect our promise to you, our promise to build a city that works, serves, and delivers. This achievement belongs to all of us. It is a testament to the dedication of every employee, partner, and resident who contribute to Johannesburg's growth.

Together, we are proving that resilience and collaboration can overcome any obstacle and unlock the full potential of our City of Gold. It is also with pride and gratitude that I share a significant milestone in our City's journey toward sustainability and financial recovery. The City of Johannesburg concluded discussions and secured additional funding over three years (2026/27 to 2028/29) through a grant of €27.5 million (about R550 million) from Invest International, a Dutch development finance institution, alongside a R1.6 billion allocation from the National Treasury's Budget Facility for Infrastructure. These funds will support the implementation of the Alternative Waste Treatment Technology project.

This landmark waste-to-energy initiative will convert over 500 000 tons of waste a year into renewable electricity. It will create jobs, stimulate local industry, and reduce pressure on our landfills.

On behalf of the City and its residents, I extend my sincere appreciation to the Government and people of the Netherlands for their partnership and confidence in Johannesburg. This collaboration is a shining example of how international cooperation can help cities overcome developmental and environmental challenges while advancing the global green transition agenda.

This achievement comes at a time when our City continues to face economic and infrastructure challenges. Yet, through resilience, accountability, and innovative partnerships, we are transforming obstacles into opportunities. The AWTT project represents not only a step towards environmental sustainability but also a testament to Johannesburg's commitment to financial stability and inclusive growth.

Let us continue this journey with determination and shared purpose to create a Johannesburg that is financially sound, socially just, and economically inclusive. Thank you for your continued support and belief in our City.

Together, let us move forward with optimism, unity, and pride as we build the Johannesburg we all aspire to live in.

Until next time,

Johannesburg Executive Mayor Councillor Sello Dada Morero