

12 May 2025

**WRITTEN SUBMISSION ON THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG DRAFT 2025/26 INTEGRATED
DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND DRAFT MEDIUM-TERM BUDGET**

For inquiries contact;

Nonhlanhla Mabunga (Coordinator)
mabunganonhlanhla@gmail.com

Johannesburg Informal Settlements Movement (JISC) welcomes the invitation from the municipality for public comments following the notice given in terms of the law. The JISC is making its representations in terms of the following legislative provisions:

- Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, section 152(a) and (e);
- Local Government Municipal System Act of 2000, Chapter 4, section 16(1)(a)(i) and (iv);
- Local Government Municipal Finance Management Act of 2003, Chapter 4, sections 22(a)(ii) and 23(1)(a).

The JISM is a coalition of informal settlement communities located in the City of Johannesburg (CoJ). They include Tjovitjo, Lawley, Thembelihle, Mountain View, Rabiridge, Patsing, Klipriviersoog, Freedom Park and Protea South. The JISM's objective is to realise improved and meaningful community participation in decision-making and project implementation processes at the municipal level, to enhance the delivery of basic services and development in these communities.

The communities concerned do not fully enjoy the constitutionally guaranteed rights, in particular socio-economic rights, such as access to water, sanitation, safe and reliable electricity and energy, waste management and housing. The representations will focus on the basic services mentioned above. The representations will be based mainly on the contents from the Draft IDP 2025/26 Review, Capital Budget and Operating Budget.

We note that the Operating Budget has made a provision for upgrading of Informal Settlements, formalisation of informal settlements and enumeration of new informal settlements. In addition, the Capital budget allocates R772.9 million which will be funded through the Upgrading of Informal Settlements Program (UISP). The Draft IDP 2025/26 Circular 88 Indicators show that the percentage of informal settlement upgraded to phase 3 in 2023/24 was 5% and the target for the MTREF is 9%.

This is inadequate in addressing the current CoJ's informal settlements upgrading backlog and contributing towards achieving the National Development Plan's objective to eradicate informal settlements within the stipulated timeframe. According to the CoJ's Draft Informal Settlement Policy issued in 2025 "[in] recent years there has been a tremendous increase to a recorded total of 312 Informal Settlements (this does not include the number of settlements not yet enumerated)". At this rate even if we take the 9% throughout, only about half of the current number of informal settlements would have gone through Phase 3 by 2030. In this scenario, the JISC is interested in knowing which informal settlements are on the CoJ's priority list. We urge the CoJ to find innovative means to achieve the objective of eradicating informal settlements by 2030

The Southern Farms Mega Mixed Development Capital Budget allocation of R1 million is insufficient and needs to be increased. Phase 1 of the project is aimed at producing 1000 RDP houses and 500

bank bonded houses. The allocation of 50% of the land to bond houses takes the space that would have otherwise been used for more low-income houses.

It is unclear if the land acquisition capital budget of R50.9 million for housing developments citywide is for the land that has already been identified, and whether the municipality has already concluded negotiation with landowners in this regard.

We are concerned about the capital budget in the line item “[f]acilities renewals, upgrades including branding and signage at R15 million”. The City should find ways to address wasteful expenditure that should be channelled towards service delivery. While there are no details of what facilities are to be renewed and upgraded, we are especially concerned about prioritising branding and signage while informal settlement communities do not enjoy waste management services. We, therefore, suggest the redirection of some of the fund from here toward dedicated innovation in dealing with illegal dumping in these communities. We suggest corner-to-corner collections of dump sites and developing and supporting recycling initiatives, including dedicated sites with bins and collection.

The Olifantsvlei Waste Water Treatment plant needs to be extended to accommodate the growing demand in the south of Johannesburg. We note the capital budget line item “Olifantsvlei Works: Digester Heating and Mixing” at R4.6 million. It is not clear what the budget specifics are exactly. It is suggested that the treatment plant be extended. We support the budget line item “Sewer: Olifantsvlei: Refurbish Unit 2” at R5 million with the view that informal settlement communities will need to be connected with conventional sanitation facilities in the long run. In the meantime, we want to express our support for the submission made by our sister organisation called Asivikelane – [2025-05-Joburg-budget-response.pdf](#).