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## Media Statement

### For Immediate Release

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### **JPC Officially Hands Over 30.5-Hectare Soweto Gateway Site to Kickstart Development**

The City of Johannesburg's municipal entity, Joburg Property Company (JPC), has officially handed over the 30.5-hectare Soweto Gateway development site to Calliper Consulting Engineers, marking a major step towards unlocking strategically located municipal land for investment, job creation and economic development in Soweto.

Speaking during the official handover ceremony at the Soweto Empowerment Zone on Tuesday, JPC Chief Executive Officer Musah Makhunga said the site, situated along Chris Hani Road and adjacent to Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital, represents one of the City's most strategically located land parcels earmarked for catalytic development.

"This handover signifies the transition from planning to implementation. The site will be transformed into a mixed-use development comprising residential, retail, commercial, education and medical facilities that will contribute significantly to the economic growth of Soweto and the City of Johannesburg," said Makhunga.

Makhunga added that the project has been named the Soweto Gateway Project because it serves as one of the primary entry points into Soweto.

"This is an exciting development that the community should look forward to. While we are finalising the remaining town-planning processes, which are nearing completion, we are committed to ensuring that the project benefits the local community and is implemented in partnership with residents and stakeholders." he said.

He said one of the immediate priorities is securing the site to prevent vandalism and land invasions.

"We have noted that sections of the perimeter wall were vandalised over time. We are therefore prioritising the restoration and securing of the site to protect this strategic asset and support the City's anti-land invasion strategy." said Makhunga.

Makhunga further emphasised the importance of stakeholder engagement and community participation throughout the development process.

"We are working closely with the ward councillor and community stakeholders to ensure transparency and accountability. Once all statutory processes have been concluded, we will

return to formally present the development plans and work packages to the community and broader stakeholders."

Chief Executive Officer of Calliper Consulting Engineers, Romeo Phalafala, said community support will be crucial to the success of the project.

"The community has to support this project during construction and even after construction. The community must take ownership of it," said Phalafala.

He noted that the development will generate both short-term and long-term economic opportunities.

"There will be immediate employment opportunities during the construction phase, as well as long-term economic benefits through sustainable jobs, enterprise development and opportunities for small businesses. Furthermore, the project is expected to enhance property values in the surrounding areas and contribute to the overall socio-economic development of the community. "he said.

Ward 24 Councillor Siyakudumisa Makaula welcomed the project and pledged the community's support.

"I want to assure all stakeholders that this project will be supported and protected. We will work closely with the developer, the City and community structures to ensure its success. Community engagement will remain a priority, and residents will be fully informed about the development and the opportunities it will create. "said Makaula.

Makaula further stressed the importance of ensuring local participation and economic inclusion.

"Our communities, local businesses and entrepreneurs must benefit from this development. We have consistently engaged with the project team to ensure that local businesses are considered and that community members are afforded opportunities throughout the various phases of implementation. "he said.

The End

Issued by the City of Johannesburg

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