

Democratic Alliance statement by
Herman Mashaba
DA Mayoral Candidate for Johannesburg

International Women's Day shows Jo'burg undermining women's rights

8 March 2016

Release: Immediate

The DA today challenges Johannesburg Mayor Parks Tau to address the desperate needs of thousands of women and children in Johannesburg, who live in utter squalor and poverty on his watch.

In honour of International Women's Day, I paid a visit to the Helen Joseph Women's Hostel in Alexandra today, and witnessed how more than 4000 women live without running water or flushing toilets, while rivers of raw sewage flow through the buildings.

The situation at Helen Joseph Hostel is one of many across the City of Johannesburg, where people are forced to live in inhumane and undignified conditions, while Mayor Tau and the ANC claim to run a world class city.

How is it that more than two decades into democracy the city cannot care for women, the poor and the most vulnerable?

It is not fair or reasonable to expect people to live in such conditions, as we have found in Alex today, while the mayor travels across the world and lives a life of luxury.

Every year South Africans celebrate their human rights during the month of March, while thousands upon thousands of Johannesburg's poor and most vulnerable wait in vain for the city to provide for their most basic of needs.

Mayor Tau and the ANC do not care for the poorest of the poor, and only pay lip service to delivery.

The DA in Midvaal and other municipalities where we govern, have tried and tested plans and policies to alleviate the plight of the poor.

The DA in government provides the most comprehensive basket of free basic services, and we want to do the same in Johannesburg.

Year after year DA-governed municipalities report the lowest unemployment figures, the highest levels of service delivery and the most pro-poor policies.

Johannesburg's residents deserve the same government.

The DA's vision for Johannesburg is that of caring city, which provides a host of opportunities for people to build a better life.

A city where the poor have a decent safety net, where people are provided with decent living conditions, and enjoy dignified treatment as enshrined in the Bill of Rights – can be a reality under the DA.

Media enquiries:

Willie Venter

Director: Communications and research

060 963 8260