

TRIBUTES IN
Memory
OF



Executive Mayor Cllr Jolidee Matongo

1974 - 2021

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The City of Johannesburg is humbled by the outpouring of emotions that has followed in the wake of the sudden death of Mayor Jolidee Matongo in a car accident. Saturday 18 September 2021 will go down in the annals of the City as a dark day, a day of loss and grief. Tributes have come in from across sections of society, reflecting the diversity of organisations and lives that Mayor Matongo had touched.

Political organisations, sporting bodies, municipalities, diplomats and even international bodies have written moving tributes acknowledging Mayor Matongo's leadership and humility in his long career and more especially within his short tenure as Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg.

This booklet brings together some of the eulogies that have been written in memory of Mayor Matongo. We thank you for your words of comfort and encouragement in our hour of need.



a world class African city

President Cyril Ramaphosa is deeply saddened by the tragic death of City of Johannesburg Executive Mayor Jolidee Matongo.

Mayor Matongo, aged 46, passed away in a motor vehicle accident today, Saturday, 18 September 2021.

The incident occurred after Mr Matongo had participated in a local government voter registration drive in his birthplace, Soweto, alongside President Ramaphosa.

The President offers his condolences to Mayor Matongo's family, friends, colleagues and comrades, and the residents of the City of Johannesburg.

Mayor Matongo was elected unopposed to this position on 10 August 2021, following the passing of his predecessor, Geoff Makhubo, a month earlier.

President Ramaphosa said: "It is hard to comprehend this tragedy, given the vitality and passion with which Mayor Matongo interacted with me and residents of Soweto so shortly before his death.

"Nothing could prepare any of us for this sudden loss, which has deprived our nation's economic centre of its second Executive Mayor in two months.

"Mayor Matongo has been taken from us at a time when he was totally immersed in improving conditions and creating opportunities for all the people of Johannesburg and stakeholders in the metropolitan economy.

"Like all of us, he was looking forward to the forthcoming election, and we saw in person today that he had put his heart and soul into mobilising the people of the city to make their voices heard on 1 November.

"The time we spent together has been rendered a priceless treasure given his untimely and traumatic passing. May his soul rest in peace."

- President Cyril Ramaphosa



The Presiding Officers of Parliament, led by the Speaker of the National Assembly Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula and the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces Mr Amos Masondo, have learnt with shock and deep sadness the tragic passing of the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Mr Jolidee Matongo.

Mr Matongo died in a horrible car accident in Johannesburg after embarking on a voter registration campaign in Soweto yesterday. Mr Matongo had only been in the position of Executive Mayor just over a month, following the sad passing of his predecessor, Mr Geoffe Makhubo.

This makes his untimely passing, and the double tragedy that has hit the City, even more devastating and difficult to grapple with.

Although in the position for a short period, Mayor Matongo had already accustomed himself to the new responsibilities, illustrated a depth of understanding of the complexities of local government and was enhancing people's developmental services.

As the economic hub of South Africa that carries the hopes and aspirations of many South African and African people, the City needed stability and continuity after the unexpected passing of the former Mayor, and Mayor Matongo brought exactly that with his extensive experience in the public sector, particularly at local government level.

Parliament's vision of an activist, responsive people's institution that spares no effort to ensure a better quality of life for all, is being made possible by vibrant, passionate and energetic public representatives such as Mayor Matongo, whose role and participation in the cooperative governance programmes of the National Council of Provinces will be missed.

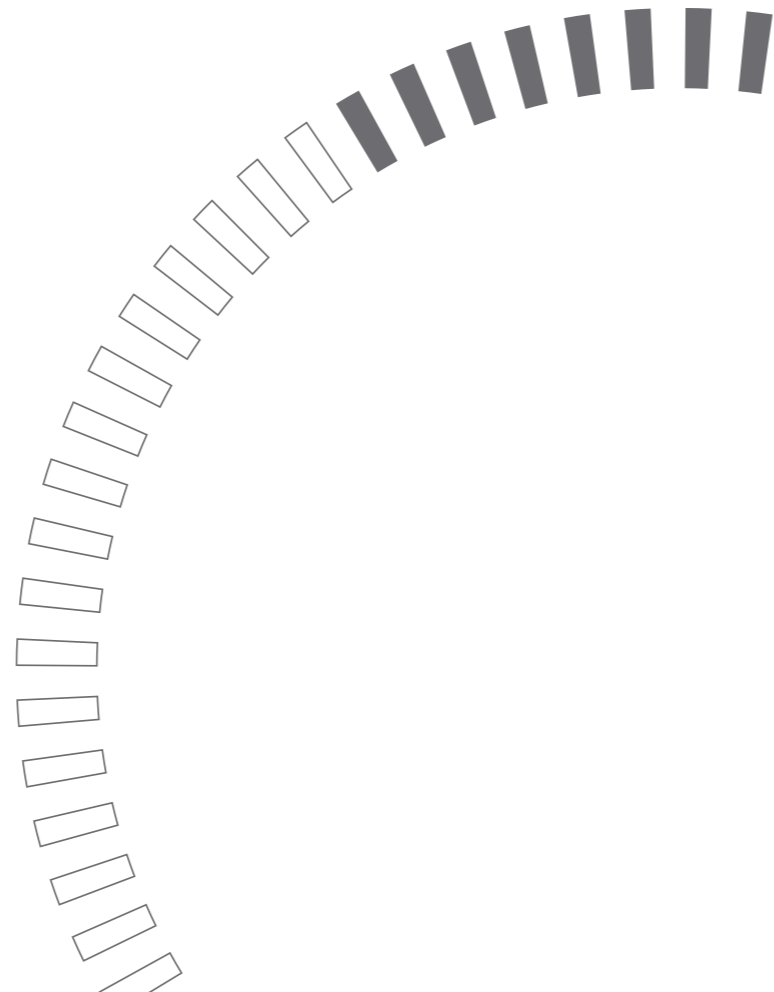
Speaker Mapisa-Nqakula and Chairperson Masondo said: "We are left much poorer by the untimely passing of this young, visionary and energetic leader, who died with his boots on, at the time that South Africa yearns for highly principled and upright leaders of his calibre.

The best tribute we can give to a fallen soldier of his stature is to continue his fight to create a stable City with strong financial systems, integrity and sustainable controls to enable accelerated economic growth and development.

His tragic death is also a stark reminder that as a nation we must multiply our efforts to rid South Africa of the scourge of road accidents that claim many lives annually".

The Presiding Officers extend their heartfelt condolences to the Matongo family, friends and colleagues, as well as the family of a pedestrian whose life the accident also claimed. They also extended their well wishes to the VIP protectors injured in the accident as speedy recovery.

- The Parliament of the Republic of South Africa





“We spent hours discussing how we want to change people’s lives for the better...”

I am still battling to come to terms with the untimely passing of our Executive Mayor, Councillor Jolidee Matongo, who was also my dear comrade, brother and most importantly, a friend.

Councillor Matongo’s death has left deep scars on me personally, and on many of us who had the privilege of working with the fallen compatriot - whose commitment to the cause of bettering the lives of the people of Johannesburg was unmatched.

His death came at a time when our city and our country was still expecting so much more from him. We will miss his boundless energy, his steadfastness, his professionalism and his never die spirit, all which ensured that he led the City of Johannesburg diligently and selflessly in service of its people.

My friend, the last few years I saw you emerging in a very amazing way, I got attached to our friendship so much that I thought it was inseparable. We never had a day pass without talking to each other. We spent hours discussing how we want to change people’s lives for the better...

You left us too soon... We are in deep pain because of your passing. We are devastated. However, in your honour, and inspired by your legacy, we will lift ourselves up. We will pick up your fallen spear.

Those of us you left behind, we will complete the mission you and many in your generation started. Go well my brother. Go well my comrade.

My sincere condolences to Ausi Kedibone, the wife of Councillor Matongo, le Mama and the entire family. I wish all of you strength and comfort during this very difficult period. I want you to know that we share your pain and sorrow.

May the soul of our beloved Jolidee Matongo rest in peace.

- Cllr Mpho Moerane



The African National Congress has learned with shock and sadness the news of the passing of the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, who also served as a Regional Executive Committee Member of the ANC, Comrade Jolidee Matongo.

Comrade Jolidee Matongo was involved in a car accident on Saturday, 18 September 2021, on his way from Soweto, where he spent the day campaigning for the Movement ahead of the Local Government Elections.

The late Executive Mayor, Jolidee Matongo, was a 46-year-old Soweto born former student activist. He started his activism at the age of 13 at Orlando West High School, where he joined the Soweto Students Congress (SOSCO) and Congress of South African Students (COSAS). He led both SOSCO and COSAS at the branch and zonal levels.

Cde Jolidee was a youth activist and formed part of the ANC Youth League and participated in the Orlando West branch. He has also served as the ANC Youth League Regional Secretary and, in various capacities and was ultimately elected as the Regional Chairperson of the ANCYL in the Greater Johannesburg Region.

Cde Jolidee has since served in the ANC Joburg Regional Executive Committee to date. He became the Regional Head of the Department of Information and Publicity and the Regional Spokesperson for the period of about eight years until he was appointed to the City of Joburg as the MMC of Finance by the late Executive Mayor Cllr. Geoff Makhubo. He then became the Head of Economic Transformation Committee and later elected as the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg taking over from the late Mayor Makhubo.

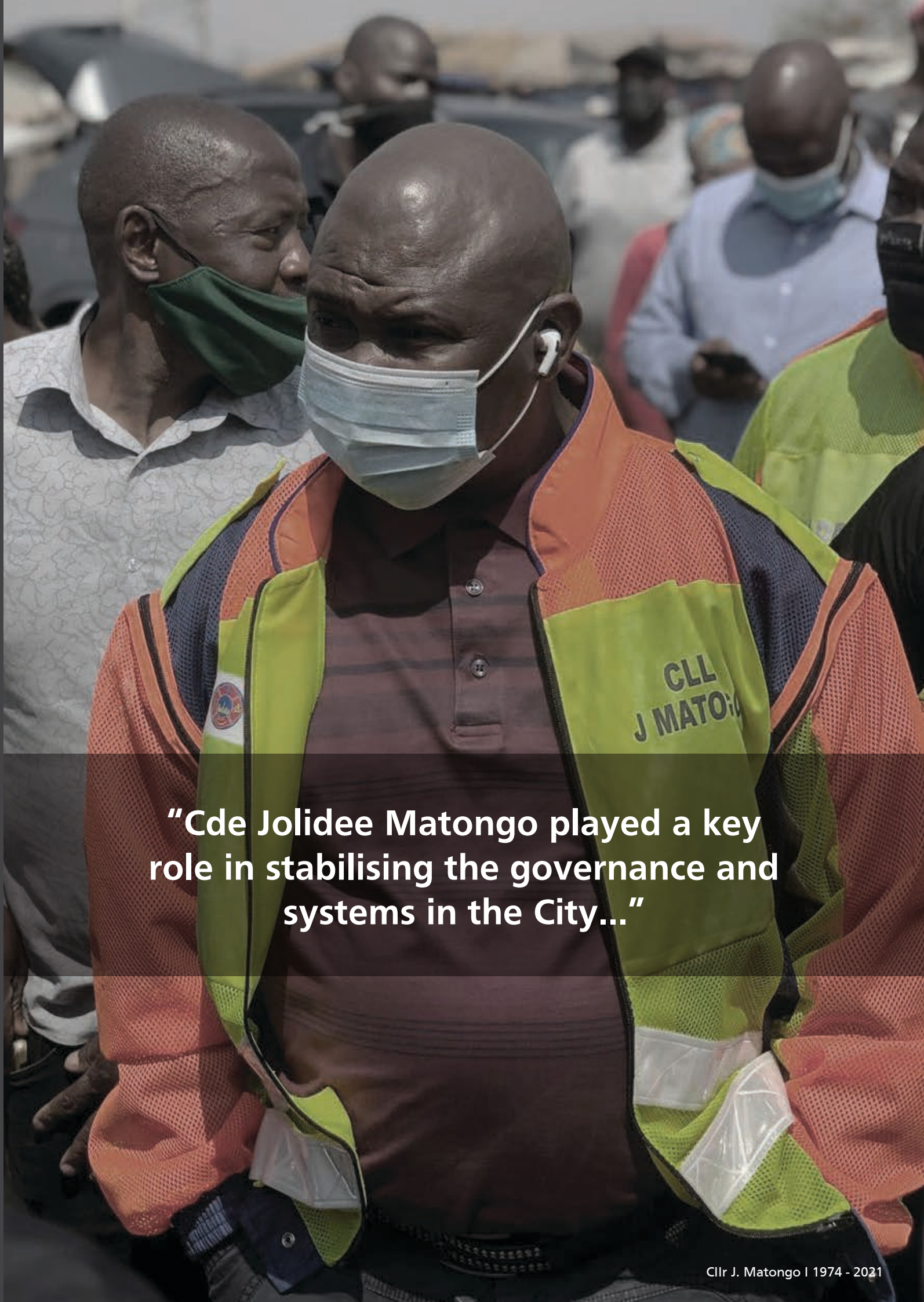
Cde Jolidee Matongo played a key role in stabilising the governance and systems in the City towards a financially sustainable City of Johannesburg. His key focus as the Executive Mayor was on the Accelerated Service Delivery Programme which was underway across the City.

Comrade Jolidee Matongo's passing is a great loss to the Movement, and society at large. We are forever grateful for his selfless contribution to the freedom of the people of South Africa and the enhancement of service delivery within the City of Johannesburg

To this end, the ANC conveys its heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, the City of Johannesburg and the entire liberation movement. We wish them strength and fortitude during this difficult time

Ends

- **Dada Morero**
The ANC Greater Joburg Regional Secretary,



“Cde Jolidee Matongo played a key role in stabilising the governance and systems in the City...”

Mayor Matongo's passing has left me shocked and shattered. I send my heartfelt condolences to Mrs Matongo and children, his extended family, friends and comrades.

- David Makhura
Premier of Gauteng Province

We have heard the shocking news over the weekend about Mayor Matongo. Such a sad turn of events is hard to believe, but we offer our most sincere condolences to the people and administration of Johannesburg, and want to pass on the message that you're all once again in our thoughts.

With kindest regards,

- Simon Rees
Head of International Relations,
Mayor's Office London

The Executive Board of JCDecaux wishes to express its deepest condolences on the news of the tragic and untimely passing of the Executive Mayor.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, office, colleagues, and the citizens of Johannesburg who have lost a dedicated, promising, and selfless young champion of service delivery.

JCDecaux commits to continue to build on his legacy by partnering with His Office and the City to make Johannesburg a World Class African.

Yours Sincerely,

- Jean-Charles Decaux
Co-Chair Executice Board of JCDecaux

It is with a most heavy heart that I pen this letter to you, on behalf of the Presidency and members of our World Organization. We are all deeply shocked and saddened by the terrible accident in which Mayor Jolidee Matongo lost his life.

We would like to convey our most sincere condolences to his family and relatives, to the honourable City Council and all the people of Johannesburg.

The City of Johannesburg is a long-time active member of UCLG and the involvement of its elected officials and members of staff has always been of the utmost importance to our network. At this time of grief, only a few months after another terrible tragedy, our Organization feels all the more like a family, and it is this sense of support, strength and solidarity from around the world that UCLG wishes to express.

We remain at your disposal should you need anything from the global municipal family.

Sincerely,

- Emilia Saiz
UCLG Secretary General



It is with deep sorrow that the Embassy of Mexico receives the news of the untimely passing away of the Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Mr. Jolidee Matongo, on 18 September.

I would like to express, on behalf of the Government and the People of Mexico, our most heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathies to the Executive Mayor's wife, family and loved ones, as well as his team.

Executive Mayor Matongo will be remembered for his service to the People of South Africa through his various leadership roles, both within the African National Congress and the City of Johannesburg. The Executive Mayor's concern with improving the conditions and opportunities of the People of Johannesburg, even during his short tenure as Executive Mayor, will not be forgotten, and his passing away is certainly a loss.

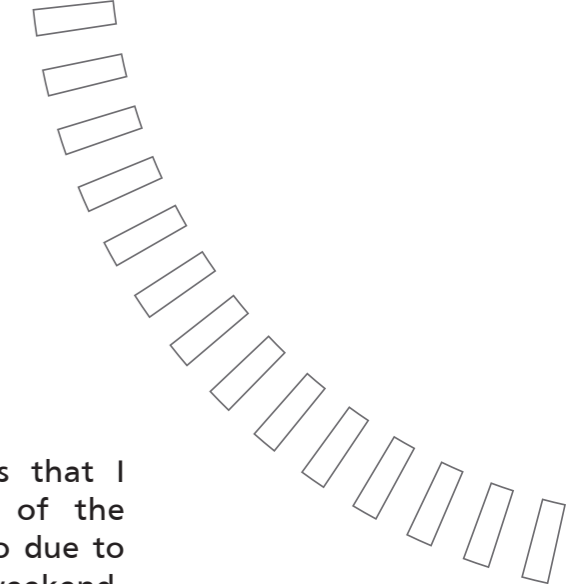
I kindly request the assistance of the Executive Mayor's Office to convey these condolences to the relevant addressees; and avail myself of the opportunity to express to you the assurances of my highest consideration

- The Embassy of Mexico
Foreign Affairs

Orlando Pirates is saddened by the passing of the Johannesburg Mayor, Jolidee Matongo.

On behalf of the extended Orlando Pirates family, we convey our heartfelt and deepest sympathy to the Matongo family. Rest in Peace
#Buccanner #OrlandoPirates #OnceAlways

- Orlando Pirates



It is with shock and great sadness that I learnt about the sudden passing of the Executive Mayor, Cllr Jolidee Matongo due to a motor vehicle accident on the weekend.

On behalf of the ICLEI network and all of us here at the ICLEI Africa Secretariat, please allow me to extend my sincere and heartfelt condolences to you, to the City of Johannesburg staff and colleagues, but especially to the family and friends of Executive Mayor Matongo.

Our thoughts also went to the other terrible loss that the municipality has already experienced, when former Executive Mayor, Cllr Makhubo, passed away earlier this year from complications due to COVID-19.

ICLEI has an especially long and close relationship with Johannesburg, strengthened over the years through many successful projects serving the Municipality. This news has therefore touched and saddened my colleagues and I deeply.

Please be assured that our thoughts are with you, as the City of Johannesburg reflects upon this immense loss. It is my sincere hope that you will all find the necessary strength and comfort during this time of bereavement.

Yours sincerely,

- Ms Kobie Brand
Regional Director: ICLEI Africa
Deputy Secretary General: ICLEI
Global Director: Cities Biodiversity Centre

“Mayor Jolidee expressed a keen willingness, commitment and dedication to serving the communities under his supervision”

The Saaberie Chishty Society greets you with Peace and Blessings, in the name of the Creator, the Most Kind, and the Most Merciful.

The Executive, Management, Staff and Volunteers of the Saaberie Chishty Society extend our sincere and deepest condolences to your office, following the tragic death of Executive Mayor, Jolidee Matongo.

We were shocked and in total disbelief when members of our Saaberie Chishty Emergency

Response Team had notified us from the scene of a motor vehicle collision, that the Executive Mayor was an occupant of one of the vehicles and that he had already succumbed to his injuries.

The tragic death and early demise of Mayor Jolidee, Matongo has certainly saddened us and we can all but only remind ourselves of his good nature and character, which we were privileged to have recently enjoyed, during the Provincial door to door campaigns.

Mayor Jolidee expressed a keen willingness, commitment and dedication to serving the communities under his supervision. He displayed kindness and reassurance in attempting to resolve the challenges and matters presented to him and this indeed are the traits of a remarkable man, who we will certainly miss.

We pray that peace and tranquillity descend upon his family, his friends, his colleagues, his comrades and all who have been affected by his tragic demise.

Regards,

- Mr Aboobaker Sayed
Chairman of Saaberie Chishty Society



“Mayor Jolidee expressed a keen willingness, commitment and dedication to serving the communities under his supervision”

"The proverbial mayoral chain is not a symbol of prestige, but rather a reminder of the commitment to serve the people of our great City,"

- Executive Mayor Cllr Jolidee Matongo

Robala Ka Kgotso Majoro

1974 - 2021



- 2 Timothy 4:7

**I have fought the good fight, I have
finished the race, I have kept the faith.**



a world class African city