



a world class African city

City of Johannesburg  
Group Communication and Marketing Department

11th Floor A Block  
Metropolitan Centre  
158 Civic Boulevard  
Braamfontein

PO Box 1049  
Johannesburg  
South Africa  
2000

Tel +27(0) 11 407 7354

[www.joburg.org.za](http://www.joburg.org.za)

## Media Statement

### For Immediate Release

**Date: 24 May 2024**

### **City and MOE Executives hold productive meeting to address Compliance and Safety concerns at Johannesburg Central Library**

Johannesburg, May 24, 2024 - A crucial meeting was convened at 8:00 AM on Thursday, May 23, 2024, bringing together a full complement of City and the Entity Executives and their representatives to discuss pressing issues related to the Johannesburg Central Library project.

The meeting was attended by key stakeholders from Community Development, Johannesburg Development Agency, Development Planning, Emergency Management Services (Fire directorate), and contracted Consultants currently working on the building.

#### **Key Updates from the Meeting:**

Johannesburg Development Agency (JDA) reported that compliance work at the library has been stalled due to budget constraints. However, consultants have completed the Fire drawings and presented them to Emergency Management Services (EMS). A site visit at the library was conducted and concluded that the partial opening of the library would be impossible due to design and safety concerns raised by EMS.

EMS highlighted several critical issues that need to be addressed before any partial opening can be considered. These include the need for solid fire design, compartmentation of the library and closing off the basement. A fire clearance certificate cannot be issued partially as it is issued for the actual stand.

Development Planning emphasized the importance of completing all necessary compliance work and submitting required certificates to Building Control to facilitate the issuance of an Occupancy certificate.

## **Plans for Moving Forward:**

An integrated, interdepartmental Committee has been established to oversee the project planning and implementation. Bi-weekly meetings will be held to monitor progress until the project is completed.

## **Urgent Actions:**

EMS will submit a detailed document outlining the reasons why partial opening is currently not possible and the major risks associated with such a scenario by Friday, May 24, 2024.

A full presentation addressing all compliance issues and associated risks will be submitted by Tuesday, May 28, 2024, to the Executives for review and present at a meeting with external stakeholders in the first week of June 2024.

The Joburg City Library needs to address three major components before partial opening can be considered. These include obtaining town planning approvals, getting fire rational design approved, and installing a fire suppression system as well as repairing the HAVAC system. The first two components are expected to be completed by the end of July 2024, while the third component will be done through a public tender procurement process.

The City of Johannesburg is committed to working closely with all stakeholders to ensure that all compliance issues are addressed, and the library is opened to the general public.

Ends

Issued by the City of Johannesburg  
Group Communication & Marketing Department

For all media queries, send an email to [mediaqueries@joburg.org.za](mailto:mediaqueries@joburg.org.za)