



20 November 2024

SAPOA delegation meets with the Mayor of Joburg

The SAPOA President, Mr Itumeleng Mothibeli and SAPOA CEO Neil Gopal, together with fellow board members Mrs Jackie van Niekerk, Mr Malose Kekana, Mrs Nomzamo Radebe, Mrs Sakina Nosarka, held a meeting yesterday morning with the Mayor of Johannesburg.

The request for the meeting stemmed from SAPOA current roadshow around the country to meet high level City officials to impress upon them the challenges being faced by the commercial property sector with the intention of collaborating in partnership with many municipalities to alleviate some of the critical problems being experienced at local level.

The delegation stressed that the underperformance of any City poses significant risks to businesses, its citizens and the economy as a whole.

Infrastructure, which is in a state of disrepair, directly affects the delivery of services to residents and businesses.

Key priorities for the industry were :

1. Water supply and water infrastructure
2. Safety and Security
3. Energy supply

The Mayor of Johannesburg, Mr Dada Morero, agreed with the sentiments expressed that malfunctioning traffic lights, potholes, inadequate electricity infrastructure, deteriorating water infrastructure, high crime rates, and hijacked buildings, among others, is equally important to the City and that the only way to resolve these matters is for the municipality and the property industry to collectively work together.

These obstacles not only drive away investments, but results in significant disruptions that increase costs of doing business and is impacting negatively on asset values, effectively leading to disinvestment and erosion of the City's rates base.

In order to arrest these challenges, no City nor any private sector entity, is going to do this by themselves.

SOUTH AFRICAN PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION NPC t/a SAPOA – REG NO 1966/008959/08

Board of Directors | Mothibeli (President), S Brown (President Elect), J van Niekerk (Immediate Past President), N Gopal (Chief Executive Officer), M Kekana, A König, L Razack, N Radebe, S Nosarka

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The meeting concluded with the resolve that the 2 parties will explore how business can effectively coordinate, together with the City, projects and initiatives which have maximum impact.

End

