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**23 April 2024**

Head of Department for  
Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs  
Dr D. Barclay  
Private Bag X61  
MARSHALLTOWN  
2107

Dear Dr Barclay

**RE: QUESTIONS POSED BY THE LEGISLATURE: (5: COGTA 027)**

Your correspondence of 16 April 2024 refers and our responses are provided hereunder:-

**5. COGTA027 With regard to the closure of Johannesburg central library, could the MEC please indicate:**

- (i) Why is the library currently closed?

**Response :** The library is currently closed because the refurbishment project is not completed, and the building is also not fully compliant to fire safety.

- (ii) When will the library be reopened?

**Response -** The target is to have some sections opened to users by June 2024.

- (iii) Can the department please provide the reasons for closure?

**Response :** The library building was closed due to commencement of a planned refurbishment project to address the roof leaks, non-complaint fire safety system, electrical, mechanical, and wet services.

- (iv) If there are repairs been done, what kind of repairs are these?

- **Phase A:**  
Roof and Fire protection Refurbishment
- **Phase B:**  
Building Refurbishment, Civil Services Refurbishment, structural Repairs, Electrical Repairs, Geysers Repairs, Heating, Ventilation

and Air-conditioning Refurbishment, general Repairs and Renovations.

- (v) When did they start, include the time frames?

**Response:** The project started on 24 May 2021. It is a multiyear project with a phased approach due to budget constraints.

- (vi) How much in rands and cents will it will cost the department?

**Response:** The initial scope of work was estimated at about R 45 456 373,73 excluding Vat.

- (vii) Which service providers have been appointed to do the repairs?

**Response:** Community Development appointed JDA as the implementing agent for the project.

- (viii) How much in rands and cents has been paid to these service providers to date;

**Response:** The department has spent about R21 412 489,10 in total since May 2021 on the project for all the work done and services rendered.

- (ix) How much in rands and cents has the department spent on restorations and alterations over the past three financial years?

**Response:** The department has spent R21 412 489,10 on Phase A including professional services.

Regards



**Mr Floyd Brink**  
**City Manager**  
**City of Johannesburg.**