

## ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT



*MMC: Environment and Infrastructure  
Services Department  
Cllr Jack Sekwaila*

**The Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC), Councillor Jack Sekwaila, leads one of the key departments in the City of Johannesburg, the Environment and Infrastructure Services Department (EISD). This department is vital to the city, comprising three entities: Pikitup, City Power, and Johannesburg Water, and generating over 60% of the city's revenue. It serves as a crucial center for service delivery.**

Councillor Sekwaila is a dedicated MMC who focuses on providing quality service to the residents of Johannesburg. His commitment is evident through the implementation of major decisions aligned with the mayor's priorities. Cllr Sekwaila has ensured that Pikitup enhances its waste collection services by purchasing 12 compactor trucks, reducing reliance on outsourced vehicles. This new fleet will not only improve waste collection but also help the city generate revenue through billing for bulk and commercial services.

The MMC strongly supports the separation at source program and has encouraged Pikitup to acquire 41 trucks specifically for this initiative. These caged trucks will be deployed to areas where the program is being implemented, aiming to increase the yield of recyclable materials. To further support this effort, the MMC has backed the formation of the Greater Johannesburg Environmental Forum, which advocates for environmental concerns in the city. Collaborating with this forum, he promotes awareness and education about the importance of maintaining a cleaner environment.

One of the significant initiatives under the MMC's leadership is the waste-to-energy project. He secured a grant of 27.5 million euros from the Netherlands to implement the Alternative Waste Treatment Technology Programme, which aims to generate clean, green energy and reduce pollution.

Councillor Sekwaila is also focused on ensuring residents have reliable access to water. He is championing programs to address water supply challenges in various parts of Johannesburg. Cllr Sekwaila has prioritised the repair of leaking reservoirs to ensure adequate water storage. Recognising that much of the city's water pipeline network is outdated, he has encouraged Johannesburg Water to invest in pipeline replacement, starting from the inner city.

Additionally, the MMC has established a partnership with Wits University to conduct a feasibility study in informal settlements across Johannesburg. This study aims to construct boreholes to provide residents with a reliable water supply, reducing their dependence on water tankers. To further support water delivery to informal settlements and during

water outages, Johannesburg Water has procured 20 water tanker trucks that will assist in supplying water to informal settlements and during outages.

The Commando system faces significant challenges regarding water supply. During outages, areas like Coronationville, Westberry, and Brixton can take over a week to recover, causing panic among residents. To address this issue, the MMC has secured an investment of 800 million rand to ensure these communities have a constant and reliable water supply. One key project nearing completion is the construction of a reservoir and tower in Brixton.

Through City Power, the MMC has also advanced the solar highmast initiative to enhance safety in areas lacking nighttime lighting due to electricity outages or loadshedding. Over 300 solar high masts have been installed across the city, focusing on unsafe areas. Furthermore, he has engaged with building owners of high-rise buildings to install lighting in their properties, which will save the city money on repairs caused by cable theft.

To reduce reliance on Eskom, the MMC has supported long-term partnerships with private power producers. The MMC plays a significant role in ensuring that councillors understand the importance of these long-term power producers. This approach will help the city diversify its electricity sources beyond Eskom by inviting private power producers to supply electricity through agreements lasting over five years.

In just two and a half years in this department, the MMC has also been instrumental in securing recognition from the Gauteng provincial government for City Power as an implementing agency. This recognition allows City Power to install transformers and build mini substations across the Gauteng province. City Power has been active in various municipalities throughout the province, replacing damaged transformers and constructing mini substations to improve access to electricity for local communities.

The MMC has taken a proactive stance to prevent revenue loss due to illegal electricity connections, particularly in informal settlements. He continues to work diligently to address these challenges and improve the quality of life for the citizens of Johannesburg.

The MMC will continue to promote good governance and financial stability to enhance transparency and accountability, as well as improve the city's revenue collection and billing system. Additionally, he will hold all entities under his department accountable to foster a non-corrupt government.