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## MEDIA RELEASE

**To: News Editors**  
**From: Kgamanyane Maphologela**  
**Director: Communications & Stakeholder Management**  
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### **City of Johannesburg may have to consider removing its electricity grid from communities who attack its officials.**

The City of Johannesburg may be forced to consider totally removing communities and businesses that – constantly put the lives of its officials in danger from its electricity grid. City officials often get attacked, threatened, robbed, obstructed, or simply refused access to electricity and water meters when attempting to read these meters or effecting disconnections at properties that are illegally connected to municipal services.

In September 2023 alone, at least 2605 customers who collectively owe the City a staggering more than R464.5 million for water services are in communities which are classified as problematic areas where the City has no access. A further 323 customers who owe the City more than R46.6 million for water services, either intimidated or refused the Johannesburg Water Meter Readers access to those meters. In the same month, the City struggled to collect a whopping more than R71.3 million that is owed for electricity as City Power technicians faced intimidation from 143 customers. These are customers who blatantly reconnect themselves to services each time they get disconnected and refuse to cooperate with the City.

The City's Group Chief Financial Officer, Tebogo Moraka says the City is losing billions of rands from illegal connections and reconnections of electricity and water services.

"The safety of our officials is very important. Lawlessness and any deliberate action endangering their lives will not be tolerated. We will ultimately be forced to consider the complete disconnection of electricity supply to these problematic areas. It's unacceptable that our staff increasingly face resistance and intimidation for doing their jobs from communities and businesses they serve. We want to caution residents that, electricity and water meters are property of the City," says Moraka.

Moraka reiterates that the City will not hesitate to lay criminal charges or effect arrests, impose hefty fines, and immediately disconnect electricity and water supply to those who illegally connect themselves to the services.

Moraka warns that the City won't back down against fierce lawlessness but will instead intensify its disconnection blitz against illegal connections and reconnections of electricity and water services across the City.

"We are resolute to collect every cent that is owed to the City. We are bringing everyone on board on our disconnection operations which include Johannesburg Metro Policy Department, Revenue, City Power, Johannesburg Water, and other crucial departments to strengthen our operations," he says.

Customers who wish to make payment arrangements and do not wish to visit any of the abovementioned walk-in-centres may contact the City's Credit Control Department by emailing them on [creditcontrol@joburg.org.za](mailto:creditcontrol@joburg.org.za)

**ENDS –**

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