

MEDIA STATEMENT

City Power nears completion of the state-of-the-art Mondeor Switching Station

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City Power nears completion of the state-of-the-art Mondeor Switching Station to stabilise supply to Rand Water and mitigate unplanned power outages that may affect water supply

City Power is pleased to announce that the commissioning of the long-awaited Mondeor Switching Station is nearing completion, with the project now at its final stages. This R190 million investment is a critical milestone in Johannesburg's energy infrastructure programme, aimed at ensuring a stable and reliable power supply to customers and key strategic facilities, including Rand Water.

The project comes at a time when communities have been grappling with water disruptions at Rand Water's Eikenhof Pumping Station. The Mondeor Switching Station has been specifically designed to address this challenge by introducing redundancy in Rand Water's electricity supply.

Currently, Eikenhof is supplied mainly through the Orlando Linking Station, which is very old and has sometimes contributed to water-related outages. With Mondeor in place, Eikenhof will be directly connected to both the Prospect and Fordsburg intake substations, meaning that should the Prospect/Mulbarton/Orlando line experience a fault, the new link will immediately and seamlessly take over. This solution will greatly stabilise Rand Water's operations and reduce the risk of water shortages caused by electricity interruptions, which will also benefit the city, the western parts of Johannesburg and even the North West province.

Beyond water security, the state-of-the-art Mondeor Switching Station will strengthen City Power's overall distribution network. It will integrate the existing Mondeor transformer substation into a fully functional switching station, allowing it to feed four substations: Eikenhof, Mulbarton, Mondeor, and Robertsham. By creating this link between Fordsburg and Prospect, the project will reduce strain on the ageing Orlando Linking Station, while also cutting down switching times, improving reliability, and ensuring faster restoration of supply in the event of unplanned outages. In addition, the extra capacity created will enable City Power to meet growing demand and expand future connections, enhancing both flexibility and resilience in the grid.

City Power CEO, Tshifularo Mashava, emphasised the importance of this redundancy, asserting that the project is not only about strengthening the grid but also about securing Johannesburg's water security.

“This ground-breaking initiative represents a major investment in Johannesburg’s electricity infrastructure. The stability of our power supply directly affects Johannesburg’s water security. By securing Rand Water’s electricity connection, we are effectively protecting our customers from unnecessary water shortages linked to power interruptions. The Mondeor Switching Station is more than just an energy project; it’s a lifeline for communities that depend on a reliable electricity and water supply.”

The project, first launched in 2015, was delayed for over eight years after a Rand Water pipeline was discovered running across the proposed site. Following extensive negotiations, City Power and Rand Water agreed to reroute the pipeline, with the work completed in August 2024. This breakthrough cleared the way for construction and commissioning activities to resume.

Commenting on the progress, City Power’s Plant Manager Thami Mthembu highlighted the resilience of the project team.

“This is a significant milestone in our journey to provide Johannesburg residents with an uninterrupted and sustainable power supply. The success of this phase and where we are at this stage is a testament to the dedication, persistence, and commitment of everyone involved. The Mondeor Switching Station will not only bring relief to current customers but also create the capacity to connect more households and businesses to the grid in the future,” said Mthembu, who pointed out that all of this work was done without interrupting power supply to customers.

The Mondeor Switching Station is expected to be fully operational by February 2026, marking a new era of strengthened electricity infrastructure for Johannesburg and laying the foundation for improved water security in the city.

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ISSUED BY CITY POWER

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