



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG
Councillor Jack Sekwaila

MMC: Environment and Infrastructure Services

ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

MMC MEDIA STATEMENT

EISD MMC rejects DA's misleading claims and cautions against political misinformation

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The City of Johannesburg's MMC for Environment and Infrastructure Services has expressed deep concern over yet another misleading and politically opportunistic statement issued by the Democratic Alliance regarding the so-called "sweeping" of Joburg Water funds.

The DA has, for months, attempted to force City Power's name into an issue that has absolutely nothing to do with the entity.

The DA claimed that City Power has been receiving money allocated by the City for Joburg Water. This claim was initially made during the adjustment budget in March, then it was repeated during the water crisis commentary in September, revived again in October through a PAIA request, and has been rehashed the same claim this week.

"At no point has the DA ever presented factual proof, nor have they approached City Power or my office for clarification, said MMC Sekwaila.

"Instead, they have chosen speculation and electioneering over responsible leadership," he added.

City Power has never received any diverted funds from Joburg Water or any other entity. If anything, the equitable contribution of City Power to the city of Johannesburg's revenue is substantial. If City Power received such amounts of money, the City wouldn't be grappling with the R1.2bn debt, which the DA itself said is owed to contractors.

The City's sweeping account mechanism is a standard financial system used by municipalities across the country to maintain liquidity, not a political toy that allows departments to drain funds from each other.

This mechanism does not give any department or entity the power to access funds allocated for different entities.

All transfers to City Power go through the same Council-approved, audited processes that apply to every municipal entity.

"If the DA bothered to consult the public financial reports tabled before Council, including the 2024 and 2025 statements, they would have noticed that City Power's financials are transparent, clean, and aligned with the law. But the DA has ignored these records and instead chosen to manufacture a narrative for political mileage ahead of the 2026 elections." MMC commented.

He says while the DA is busy inventing conspiracies, City Power has been hard at work stabilising its operations.

The turnaround programme is producing real, measurable improvements which can be seen through fewer unplanned outages, improved revenue collection, strengthened network protection, and faster response times to major faults.

The entity has been doing remarkable work under the leadership of Ms Tshifularo Mashava and her executive team. In the last quarter, the entity exceeded its targets in a number of areas, including the number of streetlight installations, connecting households to electricity connections, network stabilisation, and increased revenue collection, and has made progress in the realisation of the electric vehicle programme, which will be launched next week. A few weeks ago, the utility launched the game-changing rollout of the Intelligence Distribution System (IDS) geared towards addressing electricity losses.

These tangible improvements benefit residents of the city directly, and they are documented, audited, and publicly available. City Power and Joburg Water work hand-in-hand because electricity and water systems depend on each other.

Suggesting that one entity would sabotage the other financially is not only misleading but also illogical and irresponsible.

The real reasons behind Joburg Water's pressures have been explained repeatedly. The challenges there are linked with infrastructure backlogs, bulk supply billing cycles, and years of underinvestment.

It is clear that the DA's continued attempt to cast City Power as the villain is nothing more than a political gimmick. Johannesburg residents deserve honesty, not fear-mongering. They deserve leaders who put communities first, not parties first.

ENDS

Issued by the Office of the MMC for Environment and Infrastructure Services
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