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City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality

Communications & Stakeholder Management

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MEDIA STATEMENT

To: News Editors
From: Kgamanyane Maphologela
Director: Communications & Stakeholder Management
Date: 30 March 2026

City of Johannesburg intensifies disconnections against high-value government defaulters.

The City of Johannesburg has escalated its revenue collection efforts, warning of more aggressive, consistent, and frequent disconnections targeting high-value government defaulters who collectively owe approximately R1.4 billion.

On Friday, 27 March 2026, the City—working in partnership with the Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department (JMPD), Group Finance Revenue officials, City Power, and Johannesburg Water—conducted a large-scale disconnection operation in the Johannesburg CBD. The operation focused on buildings owned by various government departments and entities.

During the operation, the City disconnected water services and removed a water meter at a multi-storey building on Simmonds Street in the CBD, owned by the Gauteng Provincial Government's Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA). The property had accumulated debt exceeding R677,000. The disconnection followed a brief stand-off between private security personnel and the City's disconnection team, supported by JMPD.

A few blocks away, on Commissioner Street, the City disconnected electricity supply to a building housing the Gauteng Department of Health and other provincial departments. This Health Department has accrued a combined municipal debt exceeding R200 million.

The City's Acting Group Head of the Revenue Shared Services Centre, Lufuno Mashau, emphasised that the municipality has exhausted its patience with government departments and entities that continue to default on their municipal accounts.

"The City cannot continue to supply services to government departments and entities without receiving payment. We have obligations to Eskom and Rand Water, and it is incumbent upon all customers—including government—to honour their accounts. Sustainable service delivery depends on consistent revenue collection," said Mashau.

Mashau reiterated that no services will be reconnected to affected properties until satisfactory payment arrangements are made and a portion of the outstanding debt is settled.

He further warned that the City will no longer entertain prolonged negotiations over unpaid municipal accounts and will expand its disconnection campaign to include additional government departments.

“These disconnections should serve as a clear warning to all government stakeholders. The City is serious about recovering long-outstanding debt. We will not hesitate to extend this action to other departments—including education, public works, and even court facilities—should non-payment persist,” he added.

ENDS –

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