

MEDIA STATEMENT

MAYOR MORERO COMMITS TO RESTORING ELECTRICITY STABILITY IN RABIE RIDGE AS CITY POWER INTENSIFIES ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS



14 October 2026

Mayor Morero commits to restoring electricity stability in Rabie Ridge, Kanana, and Klipfontein View, as City Power intensifies action against illegal connections

City of Johannesburg Executive Mayor, Cllr Dada Morero, has committed to accelerating the normalisation programme, restoring faulty transformers and addressing streetlighting challenges in Rabie Ridge, Kanana, and Klipfontein View, while calling for intensified action against illegal connections that continue to cause recurring power outages and inconvenience paying customers.

The commitment was made during City Power's 7th Regional Electricity Imbizo held in Rabie Ridge today, 14 October 2026, which was attended by Council Speaker Cllr Margaret Sheron Arnolds, Acting CEO Rendani Sadiki and Acting Chief Operating Officer Anza Mudua.

Residents from Rabie Ridge, Klipfontein View, Kanana and Friendship Town turned out to raise concerns about repeated outages, transformer failures, widespread illegal connections, cable theft, infrastructure vandalism, streetlighting and billing-related matters affecting electricity services in the area.

From Thursday, 15 October 2026, City Power will intensify interventions to address electricity supply challenges in the affected areas, with operations ramping up further from Monday, 19 October 2026. These efforts will focus on restoring faulty transformers, accelerating network normalisation and tackling illegal connections to improve supply stability.

In his keynote address, Mayor Morero stressed that customers who consistently pay for electricity should not be inconvenienced by illegal connections and non-paying consumers whose actions overload the network and contribute to repeated transformer failures. He emphasised the importance of restoring electricity sustainably through network normalisation, proper metering and vending compliance, while ensuring that paying households are not unfairly disadvantaged.

The Mayor also committed to driving alignment between City Power, the Department of Human Settlements and law enforcement agencies to fast-track the formal electrification of informal settlements surrounding Rabie Ridge, Klipfontein View, and Kanana while calling on communities to partner with the City in protecting electricity infrastructure.

Mayor Morero further highlighted the role of alternative electrification solutions, including solar-powered microgrids, in expanding safe and legal electricity access to qualifying informal settlements where conventional grid electrification is not immediately feasible. City Power has already piloted microgrid technology in settlements such as Amarasta and Shalazile, demonstrating its potential to reduce illegal connections and pressure on the conventional network. Further implementation will be coordinated through the Department of Human Settlements, subject to funding, technical feasibility and site suitability.

"Households that pay for their electricity have carried an unfair burden for too long, sitting in the dark because of those who do not. This is not only an electricity problem. Those who cannot afford electricity should register for the City's Expanded Social Package to get Free Basic Electricity and other municipal rebates. To those who can pay but choose not to, every rand taken and not paid for is taken from your own neighbours," said Mayor Morero.

The Mayor also called for intensified and sustained enforcement operations against illegal electricity connections, stressing that interventions such as the operation conducted on Monday, 12 October 2026, should continue regularly to protect electricity infrastructure and improve supply reliability.

During Monday's operation across the Kanana Informal Settlement and Klipfontein View, City Power's Revenue Protection teams, working with Rabie Ridge SAPS and the JMPD, recovered one tonne of illegal cable worth approximately R500 000 and two transformers worth approximately R2 million. The operation also uncovered suspected organised criminal activity linked to illegal connections, including an incident in which a transformer was removed by residents before teams could reach it. Cases have been opened with SAPS.

The Mayor further urged residents to stand up against illegal connections, cable theft and infrastructure vandalism, emphasising that communities have a responsibility to report criminal activities that threaten electricity supply and public safety.

City Power remains particularly concerned about the theft and stripping of Aerial Bundled Conductor (ABC) cables from streetlighting infrastructure for use in illegal electricity connections, as well as the deliberate destruction of streetlights to create criminal hotspots. These activities damage public lighting infrastructure, create unsafe electricity connections and place additional pressure on the network.

Providing an operational update, Acting CEO Rendani Sadiki confirmed City Power's commitment to completing network normalisation, repairing faulty streetlights and restoring outstanding faulty pole-mounted transformers in Rabie Ridge Extensions 4 and 5. Restoration will be undertaken alongside metering, registration and the required vending compliance measures to prevent repeated equipment failures.

Sadiki explained that repeated transformer failures in Extensions 4 and 5 are driven primarily by sustained overloading caused by illegal connections from surrounding informal settlements, and that enforcement alone cannot stabilise the network without community cooperation and payment compliance.

"Since May 2025, we have normalised 372 failed units across this area, and 86.5% of those households are now buying electricity. That is real progress, but our target is higher, and we will not stop until we reach it. Customers who pay for their electricity should not be inconvenienced because others are not paying. As we restore each transformer, the households it serves must be metered, registered and vending, because switching on a transformer into an area that is not ready simply means it will fail again, and our people will be back in the dark," said Sadiki.

Residents at the Imbizo heard that between 1 July and 11 October 2026, electricity supply to Rabie Ridge tripped 21 times, with the majority of outages in Extensions 4 and 5 caused by illegal connections overloading the network.

Sadiki further emphasised the importance of customers paying for the electricity they consume daily, particularly following the commencement of City Power's financial ringfencing on 1 October 2026. The arrangement provides greater financial certainty over resources available for operations, maintenance and infrastructure investment, while the City of Johannesburg continues collecting customer payments. She stressed that consistent electricity payments are essential to maintaining infrastructure and improving service delivery.

Acting Chief Operating Officer Anza Mudua outlined the City's infrastructure investment in the area during the current financial year, totalling approximately R79.55 million. This includes the R14.1 million upgrade of Allandale Substation, which will increase capacity to 40MVA and enable the Department of Human Settlements' housing developments in the area to be serviced; R28.45 million in secondary plant, including remote monitoring at Allandale and eleven secondary substations; R12 million for public lighting, including 300 solar LED luminaires and 25 solar high masts; and R25 million for secondary distribution to restore out-of-service plant and reduce outage duration.

Mudua emphasised that these funded investments are aimed at strengthening electricity infrastructure, improving network monitoring and reducing outage duration. The Allandale upgrade will also support formal electrification of surrounding settlements, helping to ease pressure on the network supplying existing customers. She appealed to residents to help safeguard these investments by reporting cable theft, vandalism and illegal connections, and verifying the identity of contractors working in their communities.

City Power encouraged qualifying households to register for the Expanded Social Package (ESP), with Executive Mayor Cllr Dada Morero highlighting that more than 113,000 people are already registered under the programme and urging more eligible residents to take advantage of the support available. Qualifying indigent households can receive between 50kWh and 120kWh of free electricity per month. The City also reminded residents that its Debt Relief Programme, offering qualifying customers a 50% write-off of municipal debt with full waivers of interest and fees, runs until 31 October 2026.

Residents can report cable theft, vandalism, illegal connections and infrastructure at risk to City Power's 24-hour Control Room and Security and Risk Department on 0800 116 166 or 011 490 7900 / 011 490 7911 / 011 490 7553, or via WhatsApp on 083 579 4497, including photographs and locations where possible.

The Imbizo formed part of the City's ongoing regional engagement programme, providing a platform for residents to raise concerns directly with City leadership while allowing the entity to outline immediate interventions and longer-term measures aimed at improving the reliability and sustainability of electricity services in Midrand and across all City Power supply areas.

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