



**CITY OF JOHANNESBURG**

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A City of Johannesburg Media Statement by  
MMC for Environment and Infrastructure Services, Cllr Nico de Jager

# MMC de Jager shares challenges at Sebenza Power Station

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Tomorrow, the MMC for Environment and Infrastructure Services, **Cllr Nico de Jager**, and CEO of City Power, **Mr Lerato Setshedi**, will address the public on power outages related to Sebenza Sub-Station and the seriousness of the infrastructure backlog faced by the City.

Serious power problems in the North Eastern section of the City have occurred over the past five days, affecting tens of thousands of households. This is due to technical problems at the Sebenza Sub-Station.

On 25<sup>th</sup> May, City Power undertook the critical change-over phase for the substation. This phase required the changing over of supply at Kelvin Power Station through the new Sebenza SS 275/88kV.

Various challenges were identified once the 275kV supply from Prospect Substation was energised. These problems were resolved as they were identified.

Unfortunately, five hours before the critical planned phase could be implemented on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June, a complete loss of supply at Prospect Substation was experienced. This caused Kelvin Power Station to lose all power generation.

The network was restored in the early hours of Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June through the new 275kV supply at Sebenza SS. Two unplanned outages were experienced at Sebenza SS as there was no generation available from Kelvin Power Station. As a result of this, load rotation was implemented to avoid losing the entire network again.

On Friday evening, Kelvin Power Station restored generation and the network normalised. However, on Saturday afternoon, supply to the north eastern suburbs was lost due to a fault causing capacity constraint. Load rotation resumed until the repairs to the faulty equipment were conducted. The faulty equipment was successfully repaired by the evening.

All the above-mentioned repeated trips are unfortunate and were not expected. The network is still at risk until the transformer at Sebenza Substation is returned to service and a second power transformer energised during July 2018.

Sebenza Substation is a buffer bulwark supply facility that we are building to mitigate against unplanned power outages and capacity deficits at other substations like Prospect and Delta to name a few. It is also a strategic intake point to enhance capacity to relieve network constraints.

This is why the City is investing R1-billion to ensure that Sebenza supports and enhances the City's growth prospects.

We are confident that supply will remain stable if no other unplanned system event occurs. The City of Johannesburg remains committed to improving its basic services' offering to all residents.

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