

MEDIA RELEASE

NO EMBARGO

08 April 2016

Joburg welcomes the end of Strike at Pikitup

THE City of Johannesburg congratulates SAMWU and Pikitup on reaching agreement facilitated by the CCMA. We would like to thank the CCMA Commissioners, Mr Cameron Morajane, Mr Kaizer Thibedi, Mr Malesela Mabuya, Mr Haroun Docrat and Mr Afzul Soobedaar, as well as Mr Dumisani Dakile, the Provincial Secretary of COSATU, for facilitating the agreement between SAMWU and Pikitup

Waste has accumulated throughout the City posing health risks and damaging the reputation of the City. The impacts in low income, high density areas of the City are particularly worrying.

I would like to again apologise to residents, on behalf of the political leadership of the City, for the inconvenience caused by the stoppage. I would also like to appeal to residents to be patient as it will take time for collection to normalize. I wish to assure residents that extraordinary measures are being taken to deal with residual putrid waste, the increase in the rat population and proliferation of insects.

Over the last two weeks, the City has been able to substantively contain any further deterioration in the situation through the establishment of a Joint Operating Centre by the City Manager, to deal with the dumping, and continuance of operations. Resources were mobilized from all entities of the City and from contracted service providers. In many areas backlogs have been effectively cleared and this operation will continue until the city is completely clean. This has been done in conjunction with communities who have responded to our call to avert the multiple risks posed by dumping throughout the City. The City would like to express its sincere appreciation to all organisations and communities who have contributed resources and efforts to manage the ongoing health risk the city is facing.

I am confident that the Agreement paves the way to creating a climate of harmonious relations at Pikitup. This will require concerted effort from management and the leadership of SAMWU. The Shareholder and the Board of Pikitup will continue to support and guide this process. In the spirit of the Political Facilitation Agreement signed in December, we appeal to all parties to conduct themselves in a dignified and professional manner.

In conclusion, we value our employees. We are determined to work with them and with stakeholders to ensure that we intensify separation at source. Through this, we will change the nature of work to ensure that there is dignity, and appreciation for the work of the street sweeper, the crew on our vehicles and the worker at the landfill site.

ENDS

Issued by the City of Johannesburg

For all media queries, send an email to mediaqueries@joburg.org.za.