



**Democratic Alliance Shadow Member of Mayoral Committee for Environment, Infrastructure, Service Delivery.**

**Democratic Alliance Councillor Ralf Bittkau**

**MEDIA RELEASE: Thursday, 2 April 2015**

### **HIGH TARIFF INCREASES WILL STRAIN RESIDENTS**

The recently tabled tariff increases for the City of Johannesburg are bound to raise the ire of residents.

Property rates and taxes are still within limits at a proposed 6% increase but the tariffs for City Power, Water and Pikitup just cannot be supported.

Pikitup at 8% across the board cannot be justified in the light of their lack of direction in upper management where 16 people earn over 18 Million rand a year.

“They have a vision of being the leader in waste management in Africa yet they fail to act in accordance with that vision,” says SMMC for EISD DA Cllr Ralf Bittkau.

He says that in 3 years Pikitup has made no discernible progress in either the landfill gas to energy projects or in the much advertised incinerator. “Even their separation at source project is stuttering along like a car running on 2 cylinders.”

Joburg Water although governed by Randwater’s expected increase of 14.5% has increased water by an average of 14.5% and sanitation by 15%. “They should rather have spoken out against the increase by Randwater and limited their increases to below this. As it is, this must be seen in the light of failure by management coming home to roost.” he says.

Similarly the increase of 12.9% across the board by City Power although below the Eskom increase of 12.3% is unsustainable for the already cash-strapped public at large. All are aware of the mismanagement at Eskom yet NERSA rewards them with more increases beyond inflation.

City Power tries to at least encourage load spreading by introducing their Time of Usage (TOU) tariffs but a proper look at this reveals that the savings are minimal unless one is in a position to make huge changes to one's demand cycle.

The other alternative is to go to Prepaid which offers a better chance of savings with about a 12.3% cut in levies thereby negating the impact of this increase.

Furthermore the extremely slow roll-out of smart meters which are the ones that can be converted to Prepaid and the problems encountered around the functionality of these meters makes this also questionable.

It is in the light of all these issues that the DA strongly opposes these highly inflationary increases that will put yet another burden on the already overloaded public.

"It is now the time for entities of this city to work smarter and not just throw money at challenges," says Cllr Bittkau.

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

SMMC for Infrastructure, Environment and Service Delivery

DA Councillor Ralf Bittkau

Mobile: 0845724002

E-mail: [ralf@polka.co.za](mailto:ralf@polka.co.za)

**DA City of Johannesburg Media Liaison Officer**

**Tinyiko Barbara Masemola**

Legislative Arm of Council

Institutional Support: Democratic Alliance Unit

Metro Building, B Block, Third Floor.

158 Civic Boulevard, Braamfontein, 2000

**Tel No : 011 407-7118**

**Fax No : 011 403 2003**

**Email : [TinyikoMase@joburg.org.za](mailto:TinyikoMase@joburg.org.za)**

"Our Vision: To Govern Gauteng to make it an Open Opportunity Society for all"