



**Democratic Alliance Shadow Member of Mayoral Committee for Environment, Infrastructure, Service Delivery  
Democratic Alliance Councillor Ralf Bittkau**

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

### **Tariff increases: Does the Mayor really care for the citizens of Johannesburg?**

At the last council meeting the proposed tariff increases for the City of Johannesburg were tabled.

The mayor and his team have gone along with any increases levied on them by suppliers, and just passed these onto the citizens of Johannesburg.

Increases in electricity are 12.1%, water on average 14.5%, sanitation 15% and solid waste removal 8%.

As was seen during the course of last year Randwater was failing, and thus they opted to increase their tariffs by 14.5%.

“We all experience on a daily basis the failure of Eskom and hence their increase of 12.36%,” says SMMC for EISD Cllr Ralf Bittkau.

However to make things worse for the citizens of Johannesburg City Power loses almost 30% between technical and non-technical items, such as electricity theft through illegal connections.

Joburg water loses between 37% and 40%. Over and above all this, the revenue collection by both entities is far below the target of 95%.

The mayor and his executive would have done well to limit the increases and ensuring that City Power and Joburg Water knuckled down and addressed their losses in an aggressive manner and made up for the short falls.

Furthermore the revenue collection department could easily improve on their collection rate by ensuring that correct invoices went out.

When one compares this scenario with Cape Town where power is only going up by 10.82% and water and sanitation by 11%, with a far better collection rate than Johannesburg, one can see that Cape Town is taking their citizen's position seriously.

One has to wonder whether if ever, the mayor of Johannesburg is actually going to take the plight of his citizens to heart or continue to toe the ANC party line and support the total failure of state entities.

However not all is lost, as these are only proposed tariff increases and the public has till the 24<sup>th</sup> of next month to object.

It is now high time for citizens to make their voices heard and object to these highly inflationary increases.

**They can do so as follows:**

**Send a letter to Group Strategy, Policy Coordination and Relations:**

**PO BOX 1049, Braamfontein, 2000 or Send an email to [itumelengmoa@joburg.org.za](mailto:itumelengmoa@joburg.org.za) and/or [angeliquem@joburg.org.za](mailto:angeliquem@joburg.org.za).**

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

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