



**Democratic Alliance Johannesburg Media Statement
Democratic Alliance Ward 114 & 100 PR Councillor Funzela Ngobeni**

MEDIA RELEASE: Monday, 23 February 2015

A stinking problem: Mrs Masango, a Zandspruit resident has not had her VIP toilet drained since 2011

Zandspruit residents are fed up with the City's lack of service delivery, which has now become an extreme health hazard.

Some of the issues raised by residents include the one from Mrs Maria Masango. She says that her VIP (Ventilated Improved Pit) toilet has not been drained since 2011. As a result of this, there is a stench by her shack, which inevitably brings unhealthy and unhygienic living conditions to her and her children.

According to residents since the VIP toilets were placed there by the City, they have not been properly maintained.

Residents allege that the Joburg Water contractors, who are supposed to drain the toilets, apparently want to be bribed to drain the toilets. And it upsets residents as this is a job they already get paid by the City to do.

Democratic Alliance Cllr Funzela Ngobeni, together with the community leader, Mr Azwidohwi Ranenyini, escalated these issues with the City, particularly with Joburg Water.

After years of complaints falling on deaf ears, Cllr Ngobeni eventually managed to get representatives from the Joburg Water to visit the informal settlement. "This was purely to have them see for themselves the conditions under which residents have to succumb to," he says.

"This is an issue that strikes at the very heart of humanity; especially since it is a basic human right to access safe water and dignified sanitation," says Cllr Ngobeni.

On the 19 February 2015, Cllr Ngobeni got representatives from Joburg Water to come down to the settlements to hear from residents, and to also see for themselves the conditions that the people are being subjected to live under.

He says that after a long walk around the informal settlement, Joburg Water representatives came out with a full account of what the community have been complaining about all this time.

“As the Democratic Alliance, we now hope that Joburg Water will immediately start implementing a plan that will ensure that they address all these concerns as soon as possible,” says Cllr Ngobeni.

The DA believes that if basic services are rendered to people, residents will not have to resort to burning tyres and blockading roads in protest against the lack of basic services.

Captions:

Photo 1 and Photo 4

Democratic Alliance PR Councillor Fonzela Ngobeni engages with the City's officials on issues the community has been waiting long enough to address.



Photo2

A VIP toilet full of worms from not being emptied over the years; this is what lack of service delivery leads to, a real stinking problem!



Photo3

A child seen playing next to flowing sewerage; this is a real health hazard that is attributed to the lack of service delivery in the area.



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