

**Democratic Alliance Johannesburg Media Statement  
DA City of Johannesburg  
Dr Heinrich Volmink, MP**

**MEDIA RELEASE:** Thursday, 4 December 2014

**SEWERAGE CRISIS IN VREDEDORP**



Poor maintenance of sanitation infrastructure has led to raw sewerage in the streets of Vrededorp.

On a recent Constituency visit I was appalled to see a free-flow of sewerage which went through the backyards and even into the homes of some residents. I was also told of cases of diarrhoeal disease affecting community members, especially children, who are constantly exposed to such toxic conditions.

In addition to facing dire socio-economic deprivation, the residents of Vrededorp now also have to contend with this inexplicable level of basic service delivery failure.

Although the issue has been taken up with the City of Johannesburg, the response has been unacceptably slow. This is an emergency situation, and yet it has been met with unnecessarily complicated red-tape and bureaucratic inertia.

While DA councillors such as Cllr Nazley Khan Sharif and community leaders such as Debbie Benjamin are working hard on behalf of the people of Vrededorp, the response of many others who have been given the responsibility of protecting this community has been dismal.

The DA calls upon the City of Johannesburg to act urgently in order stop this ongoing violation of the basic human rights and dignity of the affected communities. We also urge that long-term solutions, such as the establishment of robust sanitation infrastructure, be incorporated into the Integrated Development Plan of the City.

The people of Vrededorp deserve better.

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

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