

**Democratic Alliance Johannesburg Media Statement  
DA City of Johannesburg  
DA Spokesperson on Infrastructure in Johannesburg  
Councillor Ralf Bittkau**

MEDIA RELEASE: Wednesday, 10 December 2014

**IT IS UNACCEPTABLE THAT THE CITY OF JOBURG'S LOAD SHEDDING  
SCHEDULE IS UNRELIABLE**

Between the delays experienced on the roads, and the damage caused to businesses which rely on power to keep functioning, Eskom and this government has a lot to answer for.

People were informed last Friday that Eskom, was going to load-shed at level 3.

That translates to: Stage one allowing for up to 1000MW of the national load to be shed, stage two for up to 2000MW and stage three for up to 4000MW.

Last Thursday, Eskom said it was planning countrywide power cuts over the weekend to build up reserves.

However recent days has shown that the schedules are not being adhered to. "Because of this, it is difficult for Councillors to keep residents informed and the lack of response from City Power worsens the situation," says Cllr Bittkau.

The unfortunate direct result is the inability of JMPD or external officials being deployed to intersections where robots are down.

Councillor Bittkau says that above the load shedding issue, continuous technical outages continue to emerge. An example is Northwold X7 and Randpark Ridge X60, which were out for 36 hours and had no response from City Power for 24 hours.

"These technical faults are about to escalate as transformers in some areas are old and not well maintained, resulting in failures.

City Power is doing nothing to get all four Gas turbines up and running which could put 44 Mega Watts into the system," says Cllr Bittkau.

Reports have it that only one is able to be started up however the City does not have the jet-fuel to do so.

"Yes, this is a costly exercise but it has to be off-set against the damage being done to the economy by Eskom's blunders," says Cllr Bittkau.

NERSA approved the increases in Eskom tariffs of 15% per annum mainly due to Eskom's promise to have Medupi up and running by September 2013.

"But due to labour and contractual problems that Eskom and their business partners Chancellor House, the investment branch of the ANC, were unable to resolve we are

now running a further 4 full years behind schedule,” calculates Cllr Bittkau.

But of course our ANC-led government is not about to censure Eskom but instead they will try to force further increases on the already badly strained taxpayers.

It is because of this type of mismanagement combined with the ever increasing corruption that loses us foreign investors.

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

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