

Democratic Alliance statement by
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Johannesburg Mayor Parks Tau City misleads the public on audit outcomes

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City of Johannesburg mayor Parks Tau and Members of the Mayoral Committee (MMCs) have completely violated the tenets of good governance by making pronouncements on the city's audit outcomes before receiving council approval.

Yesterday finance MMC, Cllr Geoffrey Makhubho briefed the press on the city's 2014/15 Annual Report, before it was tabled before council.

Principles of good governance demand that financial statements must first be presented to the board and approved by the board, before being made available to shareholders.

Likewise, Auditor-General reports must be put to council before being made public.

Mayor Tau blatantly sidestepped the council and went straight to our shareholders, the public, hoping to tell a good story before the real state of affairs comes to light.

While MMC Makhubho claimed that more municipal-owned entities had improved audit outcomes, the fact is that only 6 of the 15 managed to improve - less than half.

Of further concern was that MMC Makhubho mentioned challenges identified by the AG, but gave no specifics - a clear intention to gloss over the city's underperformance.

The fact is that the Mayor Tau and the ANC stage-managed the release of the Annual Report to hide its own bad governance and to score political points to soften the blow.

The DA will expose Mayor Tau's hypocrisy as we complete our analysis of the city's performance.

In government in Johannesburg the DA will bring transparency and accountability, and will not mislead the public to deflect the true facts of performance - we will be honest and sincere whatever the state of affairs.

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