



a world class African city



City of Johannesburg
Pikitup

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MEDIA RELEASE

TO : ALL MEDIA

FROM : PIKITUP JOHANNESBURG SOC LIMITED

DATE : 04 JULY 2017

SUBJECT : PLANNED PICKET DEMONSTRATIONS BY WASTE RECLAIMERS

RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

Pikitup, the Waste Management Entity of the City of Johannesburg Council, has received notification of a planned picket demonstration by Waste Pickers operating in the areas of Randburg, Northcliff and Roodepoort.

The picket demonstration is planned for Wednesday, 05 July 2017 in Braamfontein. In their correspondence, they indicate that the protest action is against the lack of consultation, and the appointment of service providers to carry out the separation at source of recyclable waste in the afore-mentioned areas.

Pikitup, on the contrary, rejects that it failed to consult with WIEGO and the South African Waste Pickers Associations, as well as Waste Pickers operating at Pikitup's landfill sites. Consultative meetings were held in September and October 2016 respectively, culminating into a two day workshop which was held in May 2017.

Pikitup is fully committed to working with Waste Pickers. In fact, during the consultative process, the need for waste pickers to organise themselves into a representative forum was emphasized as it is impractical to consult with every waste picker in the city. Furthermore, one of the critical deliverables by the appointed service providers, is for the services providers to partner and work with reclaimers in order to mitigate territorial disputes.

Currently, recycling efforts within the city of Joburg are not sufficient such that there is enough recyclable materials for everyone involved in the waste recycling sector, including Waste Reclaimers.

The waste characterization study of 2015 conducted by Aurecon, on behalf of the City of Johannesburg and Pikitup, shows the following waste generation statistics:

- Low income areas 6.63 kilogram per capita per week
- Middle income areas 7.31 kilograms per capita per week
- High income areas 7.21 kilograms per capita per week

Furthermore, from the CSIR Bin Pilot Study conducted in January to March 2017, on behalf of Pikitup, it can be concluded that, circa 52 kg per capita per day is collected by waste pickers.

In conclusion, Pikitup will be accelerating the separation@Source, and other similar programmes with the goal of recycling and diverting approximately 73 000 tonnes of recycled waste per annum over the next five years.

Pikitup remains committed to finding amicable solutions to the issues raised by stakeholders in the sector, including Waste Reclaimers. Moreover, plans to introduce a monthly area cleaning programme within the city of Johannesburg are at an advanced stage. Further details in this regard will be communicated in due course.

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