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City of Johannesburg Pikitup

Pikitup Head Office
63 Cnr. Bertha & Juta Streets
Braamfontein
2017

Private Bag X74
Braamfontein
Johannesburg
2017

Tel +27(0) 11 712 5200
Fax +27(0) 11 712 5322
www.pikitup.co.za
www.joburg.org.za

9 February 2016

STATEMENT BY THE PIKITUP BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOLLOWING THE RECENT WORK STOPPAGE AT PIKITUP

The Pikitup Board apologises to residents of Joburg for the unacceptable failures in waste management services in the City. These failures are a threat to public and environmental health and deny residents of their legitimate expectation for the City to be clean.

Following reports of an illegal work stoppage the Strike Management Committee of the Board met on Thursday 4 February 2016 and the Board met on Monday 8 February. At its meeting yesterday the Board reiterated its previous decisions that management of Pikitup must ensure that the City is clean and that it is expected of employees and leadership of the unions to be preoccupied with service delivery. The Board has a zero-tolerance to ill-discipline in the workplace which, if it occurs, will result in consequence management. This will be communicated in writing to the SAMWU leadership.

The recent stoppage follows the unusual step of direct engagement of the Board with leadership of SAMWU and Management in November 2015. This was further to the commencement of unprotected labour action on 23 November 2015. The Board expressed its utmost disappointment at SAMWU having embarked on this action, without first engaging management through the mechanisms created for that purpose. SAMWU leadership was requested to desist from continuing with the strike.

At its last Board meeting on 7 December 2015, the Board expressed its appreciation to Member of the Mayoral Committee, Ms Matshidiso Mfikoe, the Managing Director and Management of Pikitup, and the leadership of SAMWU for finally reaching an agreement, facilitated by Gauteng Member of the Executive Council, Mr Jacob Mamobolo. This appreciation was communicated to the SAMWU leadership notwithstanding the stance of the Board that it was disappointed at SAMWU having embarked on unprotected labour action, and strongly disapproved of the trashing of the city and the reported acts of intimidation and vandalism.

Implementation of the agreement reached in December 2015 is being facilitated by Senior Counsel and the Board of Pikitup is providing its full support to implementation of the letter and spirit of the agreement. The agreement, amongst others, commits the parties to “restore the relationship of trust”, reach agreement “in an amicable manner without apportioning blame” and “relieve the residents of the City of Johannesburg of the inconvenience brought to bear on their quality of life”. In signing the agreement the parties agreed to a “cessation of hostilities”.

The Board trusts that all employees will indeed desist from any further illegal action, failing which normal consequences will follow. Finally the Board appeals to residents to be responsible with management of the waste they generate, by reducing, reusing, recycling and properly disposing of the remaining waste. Notwithstanding the inconvenience of the work stoppage, the illegal dumping of waste throughout the City is intolerable carrying with it a burden of disease, particularly in densely populated areas. Residents are urged to report illegal dumping, and law enforcement officials have been briefed to act against perpetrators of illegal dumping.

Contact for more information:

Mr Francois Dekker
Board Secretary
Cell: 083 277 7353
Email: francoisdekker@pikitup.co.za