



City of Johannesburg  
Pikitup

Pikitup Head Office  
Jorissen Place  
66 Jorissen Street  
Braamfontein  
2001

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

07 September 2017

For Immediate Release

**PIKITUP FORKS OUT R50 000 A DAY TO CLEAN UP LITTER DELIBERATELY DUMPED IN THE CITY  
BY PROTESTING FORMER JOZI@WORK EMPLOYEES**

Today, The Managing Director of Pikitup, **Mr Lungile Dhlamini**, Member of the Mayoral Committee for Development Planning, **Councillor Funzela Ngobeni** and the Chairperson of the Pikitup Board, **Mr. Bhekisisa Shongwe**, addressed members of the media on the violent protests by former Jozi@Work co-operatives who have vandalised city property, looted shops, assaulted a Pikitup employee, and threatened and harassed many others over the course of the past seven days.

Former Jozi@Work employees have been on the rampage for the past week, after demands for permanent employment had been turned down. What is upsetting is that Pikitup workers are prevented from discharging their responsibility of ensuring that the city is kept clean. This has a direct impact on growing jobs, as Johannesburg cannot lure investment back to the inner city when lawlessness is causing havoc on our streets.

Being unable to clean the compiling waste has **serious health implications to residents**, and having to make use of additional resources and cleaning shifts is costing the City **R50 000 per day**. In May this year, the three-month Pikitup contracts signed by former *Jozi@Work* beneficiaries through the City's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), expired. We wish to reiterate that we have been clear about the **temporary** and **rotational** nature of the contracts and have at no point stated or implied that anyone would be entitled to an extension, or that the three-month contracts would result in full-time employment.

The **Jozi@Work programme was a wolf in sheep's skin**, benefitting only the middlemen who were awarded multimillion-rand contracts to run projects. Through the **City of Johannesburg's new approach to temporary work opportunities**, residents will be given work opportunities directly through the City, and not through middlemen, thereby increasing the number of people who can fairly benefit from these work opportunities.

The additional R49, 2 million which has been allocated to Pikitup through the adjustment budget in a bid to clean up our City, is wasted, if we are to use these funds to clean up after criminals. This means that our residents in the inner city, and informal settlements, are being robbed of the services they are entitled to. Pikitup wishes to place it on record that its employees are not on strike. The entity has simply distanced itself from the incidences of vandalism, assault and hijacking of our trucks, perpetrated by former employees of the Jozi@Work programme. We have reason to believe that this **criminal behaviour is organised by a third party**, as we have seen footage showcasing how these individuals are systematically dropped off at various locations, after which they vandalise city infrastructure, turn over our skips and hijack our waste removal trucks and dump the waste in the inner city. As a result, Pikitup's

cleaning schedule has been severely disrupted, and over the course of the past seven days we could only attempt to clean the mess left behind, under the watchful eye of the Johannesburg Metro Police Department (JMPD), in an effort to protect our employees.

Pikitup is also in possession of the registration numbers of other trucks that has been used by the third party to also disrupt services and discharge waste. The trucks used by Jozi@Work members do not belong to Pikitup. **Pikitup is working with policing authorities to identify the owners of these vehicles in order to lay criminal charges against those responsible for disruptions to services and damage to property.**

We will not be deterred from delivering on our mandate to keep the streets of Johannesburg clean. **We are working closely with the JMPD and the Yeoville, Hillbrow and Central South African Police Service (SAPS),** to ensure that our employees can work in safety, and that perpetrators are held to account.

**Ends /**

**For media enquiries contact;**

Muzi Mkhwanazi

Manager: Communications

Telephone: 087 357 1116

Cell: 071 312 7757

Email: [muzimkhwanazi@pikitup.co.za](mailto:muzimkhwanazi@pikitup.co.za)