



Media Statement

For Immediate Release

Date: 17 May 2024

The City deploys Public Order Policing to remove violent protesters from Depots

Pikitup has deployed the Public Order Policing (POP) unit to remove protesters obstructing its depots, ensuring employees can resume waste collection services for City of Johannesburg residents.

The protesters, comprising Expanded Public Works Programme employees whose contracts are expiring, and community members blocked entrances to the Norwood, Selby, Marlboro, Randburg, Diepsloot, Midrand, and Roodepoort depots. They are all demanding permanent employment with the waste management company.

POP units have been instructed to arrest and remove these lawbreakers to allow Pikitup staff to perform their duties. Additionally, private security personnel and the Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department (JMPD) will escort employees as they provide services to residents.

It is important to clarify that the current protest action is not a strike by Pikitup's employees but by casual workers. This means that members of the South African Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU) and the Independent Municipal and Allied Trade Union (IMATU), the recognized unions within the organization, are not on strike.

Despite deploying POP units, Pikitup remains committed to engaging with protesters representatives to find an amicable solution. These efforts are expected to facilitate the reopening of the depots soon.

Pikitup reassures City of Johannesburg residents that every effort is being made to restore waste collection services. Residents in affected areas are encouraged to dispose of their waste at Pikitup's integrated waste management facilities while the matter is being resolved.

Ends

For Information Contact:

Muzi Mkhwanazi

0713127757