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Official Statement

For Immediate Release

Date: 08 February 2026

FAKE MUNICIPAL MANAGER NOTICE IN CIRCULATION

Dear Residents and Account Holders,

The City of Johannesburg is aware of a message currently circulating on social media and messaging platforms falsely claiming to be an official statement from the Municipal Manager, Dr Floyd Brink. The City wishes to state clearly and unequivocally: the circulating statement is FAKE. It was not issued, authorised, or approved by the City of Johannesburg or the Office of the Municipal Manager.

The Municipal Manager has not issued any apology, including the alleged “profuse and unreserved apology” for failure to comply with Section 126B of the National Credit Act, nor has he made any of the admissions, commitments, or undertakings contained in the fraudulent message.

Residents are urged not to rely on this message, not to act on it, and not to share it further.

Legal and Factual Clarification

The circulating document contains false, misleading, and legally incorrect statements, including claims that:

- The City unlawfully carried approximately R30 billion in prescribed debt;
- The City’s billing systems were deliberately manipulated;
- Municipal prescribed debt is automatically unlawful under the National Credit Act;
- The Municipal Manager undertook personal financial penalties, resignation commitments, or legal liability;
- Officials face automatic fines or imprisonment under the cited legislation.

These claims are not supported by any verified audit outcome, court ruling, Council resolution, or official City record.

Furthermore:

- The document misrepresents and oversimplifies legal principles relating to prescription and the National Credit Act.
- Municipal debt, billing, and credit control are governed by multiple legal and regulatory frameworks, and no blanket determination such as that claimed in the fake message has been made by any competent authority.
- The fraudulent message does not constitute a statement of law, municipal policy, or official financial position of the City of Johannesburg.

Our Commitment to Residents

While the statement is fraudulent, the City recognises that the issues referenced, including concerns about billing, prescribed debt, metering, and fairness are important matters affecting residents and communities.

We want to assure residents that:

- Your concerns are heard and taken seriously.
- The City understands the frustration and uncertainty these issues may cause.
- The City remains committed to lawful administration, transparency, and fairness.

What the City Will Do

Over the coming days, the City of Johannesburg will issue formal, verified, and detailed responses addressing each of the issues raised in the circulating message, including:

- Billing and prescribed debt
- Metering and account accuracy
- Legal compliance and resident protections

These updates will be communicated through official City communication platforms to ensure residents receive accurate and reliable information.

Advisory to Residents

Residents are encouraged to:

- Treat the circulating message as fraudulent and misleading
- Verify information only through official City of Johannesburg channels
- Engage the City directly through customer service centres and official platforms regarding any account-related concerns

The City of Johannesburg remains committed to serving residents with integrity, transparency, and accountability, and to addressing community concerns in a clear and lawful manner.

Ends

Issued by the City of Johannesburg

For all media enquiries, email: mediaqueries@joburg.org.za