

MEDIA STATEMENT

MMC Sekwaila's Oversight Programme in Tshiawelo

 **03 March 2026**

The MMC for Environment and Infrastructure Services Department, Councillor Jack Sekwaila, conducted an oversight visit earlier today, 03 March 2026, in Wards 11, 12 and 13 of Tshiawelo, Region D, Soweto.

This multi-disciplinary service delivery initiative included senior representatives from the Environment and Infrastructure Services Department, City Power, City Parks, Johannesburg Water and Pikitup, together with the relevant ward councillors.

The oversight visit focused on strengthening accountability and monitoring service delivery in the area. Joined by community members and ward councillors, the MMC assessed conditions on the ground, identified persistent challenges and engaged directly with residents and officials to facilitate practical interventions and improve performance, efficiency and responsiveness.

City Power participated in the programme to address longstanding concerns relating to electricity infrastructure, particularly public lighting, with the aim of improving services to residents in the affected areas. MMC Sekwaila noted that previous community engagements had highlighted the need for focused intervention. Councillors raised ongoing challenges, including illegal dumping, overgrown grass in public spaces and the maintenance of streetlights to improve public safety.

"City Power will explore the use of more solar-powered lighting in the area to curb the widespread theft and vandalism of conventional lighting systems," said Sekwaila. He added that the installation of standalone, off-grid solar-powered streetlights and high-mast lights could help reduce maintenance backlogs while providing more reliable lighting to enhance community safety.

MMC Sekwaila also stressed the importance of community vigilance in addressing infrastructure theft and vandalism. He stated, "As City Power teams are deployed to install and maintain streetlights, we urge residents to safeguard the electrical infrastructure in the area. This will help reduce the costs associated with repairs and limit recurring incidents."

He further noted that community involvement strengthens the additional security measures already implemented by City Power and supports a shared responsibility in protecting essential services.

The General Manager for City Power's Public Lighting Department, Patrick Radebe, indicated that the utility intends to prioritise main roads and identified crime hotspots to ensure consistent lighting that may help deter criminal activity.

During a walkabout in Ward 11 to assess priority service delivery concerns, Councillor Masha Mulelu expressed appreciation to the participating entities for their presence and commitment to addressing community issues.

He stated that there was a shared understanding among the councillors, the MMC and the entities on the immediate steps to be taken in the coming days. Councillor Mulelu added, "We anticipate seeing teams from the various entities attending to the service delivery matters raised today. Residents expect to see visible progress on the ground, and we look forward to that work being carried out."

These engagements enable City Power to work closely with other entities in addressing service delivery challenges, while creating space for direct community feedback and focused improvements to service reliability.

ENDS

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Isaac Mangena, General Manager

Department of Public Relations and Communications