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## Media Statement

### For Immediate Release

**Date: 27 January 2026**

## **Illegal Power, Illegal Signs: City of Joburg Moves Decisively Against Non-Compliant Outdoor Advertising**

The City of Johannesburg today undertook another major enforcement operation against illegal outdoor advertising, targeting both static and digital billboards, with a significant focus on digital advertising structures drawing electricity unlawfully from the City's network.

While the operation addressed a range of non-compliant outdoor advertising, digital billboards were a key focus due to their high electricity demand and the increasing prevalence of illegal and unsafe power connections. These connections place the City's electrical infrastructure at risk, endanger surrounding communities, and constitute electricity theft.

The operation identified multiple serious contraventions, including advertising structures not registered on the City's system, illegal electricity infrastructure, and the use of unapproved or non-compliant meters.

During today's operation:

- More than six illegal advertising signs were affected, including large, high-impact billboards along Winnie Mandela Drive and the N1 corridor.
- Illegal electricity meters and associated infrastructure were removed by City Power.
- One advertising sign found to be completely absent from City records had its electricity supply infrastructure removed.
- An illegal advertising sign along Winnie Mandela Drive was removed.
- A second sign was found to be illegally connected and was successfully disconnected.
- Electrical connectivity on a third sign is under active investigation.
- In one instance, while the electricity connection was legal, the advertising structure itself is illegal and is being addressed through regulatory enforcement.

A large advertising structure located on private property was also identified as non-compliant. While the City is unable to remove the entire structure at this stage, parts of the sign are being removed to enforce compliance and mitigate risk.

The City reiterates that all advertisers operating in Johannesburg must comply with municipal requirements. This includes registering advertising structures, obtaining the necessary approvals, opening a City Power account, applying for an approved meter, and paying for the electricity consumed. Failure to comply will result in enforcement action.

Illegal outdoor advertising and unlawful electricity use undermine public safety, damage municipal infrastructure, and deprive the City of revenue required for service delivery. Compliance is mandatory, not optional.

The City of Johannesburg will continue with intensified, city-wide enforcement operations and will apply escalated measures against repeat or defiant offenders.

This operation sends a clear message: outdoor advertising in Johannesburg must be lawful, safe, and fully compliant or it will be removed.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to comply with municipal by-laws and report illegal activities through official City channels:

- **Anti-Fraud and Corruption Hotline:** 0800 025 87
- **Email:** [Whistle@joburg.org.za](mailto:Whistle@joburg.org.za)
- **Walk-in:** 48 Ameshoff Street, SAPPI Building, Braamfontein
  - 6th Floor: Fraud, Corruption, Theft and Maladministration
  - 7th Floor: Property Hijacking and Compliance Investigation

**Ends**

Issued by the City of Johannesburg

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