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STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

MEDIA BRIEFING ON MIDRAND WATER SUPPLY CHALLENGES

03 February 2026

Good day to members of the media and residents of the City of Johannesburg.

The City of Johannesburg has convened this media briefing to provide an update on the ongoing water supply challenges affecting parts of Midrand. These challenges are the result of a series of incidents within the Rand Water bulk supply system over the past week, which have directly impacted Johannesburg Water's Midrand network.

On 26 January 2026, Rand Water notified Johannesburg Water of emergency repair work at the Palmiet Pump Station, which necessitated the isolation and repair of critical pump infrastructure. While the work was initially expected to be completed within a short timeframe, technical and operational delays prolonged the repair process.

This was followed by a power trip at Rand Water's Zuikerbosch Treatment Plant on 27 January 2026, which further affected the Eikenhof and Zwartkoppies supply systems. Although partial pumping capacity was restored, these incidents significantly reduced the volume of water supplied into the Palmiet system.

On 31 January 2026, an additional power failure occurred at the Palmiet Pump Station, further destabilising the system. These cumulative incidents resulted in critically low levels at the Klipfontein Reservoir, which supplies Johannesburg Water's Midrand system. On 1 February 2026, a leak was also identified at the Klipfontein Reservoir. Repairs were completed, and commissioning finalised on 2 February 2026.

As a result of these events, the following Johannesburg Water reservoirs were impacted:

- Erand Reservoir
- President Park Reservoir
- Grand Central Reservoir
- Rabie Ridge Reservoir
- Diepsloot Reservoir

We can confirm that further improvements have been recorded in supply to the Erand, Diepsloot, Rabie Ridge and President Park reservoirs. Reservoir outlets have been opened in a controlled manner to support system recovery, and low-lying areas are now receiving water. As reservoir levels continue to gradually improve and the system stabilises, supply will progressively extend to higher-lying areas.

The Grand Central Reservoir also records limited inflow. However, current reservoir levels remain low and are not yet sufficient to support a sustained supply to all dependent areas. This reservoir will continue to be closely managed as part of the broader system recovery process.

The City, through Johannesburg Water, continues to closely monitor system performance and apply the required operational configurations to support safe and sustainable recovery.

Alternative water supply remains in place through roaming water tankers in affected areas and will continue until the normal water supply is fully restored. We would like to emphasise that tanker deployment remains operationally managed and may change as on-the-ground conditions evolve to ensure equitable distribution based on verified need.

We acknowledge the inconvenience caused to residents, businesses, and institutions, particularly in Midrand. Restoring system stability and a reliable water supply remains our highest priority. We therefore urge residents to continue using water sparingly during this recovery period.

Thank you.