



a world class African city

City of Johannesburg
Group Communication Marketing and Tourism Department

11th Floor A Block
Metropolitan Centre
158 Loveday Street
Braamfontein

PO Box 1049
Johannesburg
South Africa
2000

Tel +27(0) 11 407 7226

www.joburg.org.za

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Joburg's Mayor Tau cracks the whip on corrupt suspects

Joburg City has uncovered a scam implicating its Development Planning and Urban Management (DPUM) employees and possibly a group of regular customers who colluded to pocket an estimated R10-million of Council funds in the past twelve months.

The scam has resulted in the suspension of one employee and it is expected that others are to follow as the investigation progresses.

The City has further asked investigators to verify indications that the scam may be a contributory factor to the delayed resolution to the billing woes of the city.

Action taken in this scam is in line with the City's 30-year strategy known as Joburg 2040 on clean governance with zero tolerance approach to fraud, corruption, bribery and mal-administration. It is also a practical demonstration of building a world class city that listens to its people, sensitive to their needs and accepting responsibility for improving the environment they live in.

At this stage, the announcement would be limited to basic information to avoid undermining on-going investigation which is unmasking finer details of this scam.

Generally speaking, certain parties took applications fees from city customers and generated fraudulent receipts. They shared the spoils of the cash collected from the City's residential and business customers. City records then reflected the applications as valid registered customers on the basis of proof of payment.

After confirmation of the scam, management has taken the following immediate steps to minimise the risk of losing more money on a daily basis:

- Suspended one identified employee and is busy instituting further disciplinary processes
- assigned the City's Forensic Unit to secure available evidence of wrong-doing and assist law enforcement agencies with further Investigations
- changed the departmental processing systems and the outcome of the investigation will further boost limiting opportunities for fraud

Most importantly, the ratepayer and customers need to be assured that this incident will not affect the processing of their applications, unless current investigations determines that the applicant is part of the scam.

We also want to indicate that the City encounters in the course of fighting corruption. For instance, the Johannesburg Metro Police Department (JMDP) recently.

In the broader context of fighting corruption within the City departments, we have been able to make significant progress which resulted in the arrest of a senior by-law public prosecutor following an attempt to withdraw a total of R40 000 fines. The matter is still being processed.

Recently, a metro police officer was arrested and handed to police after soliciting a R1 000 bribe from a motorist in Hillbrow.

On the matter involving metro police attack on a resident in Ivory Park, north of Johannesburg, we are awaiting results from an identity parade which was held yesterday.

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Members of the public are also urged to come forward to make statements to the commercial police branch should they know anything about this scam because this will contribute immensely in effectively prosecuting all people involved. Calls could also be made to the 24-hr toll free city telephone line: 0800 00 587.

“We are an engaged, responsive, accountable, efficient and productive City” - Joburg 2040 Governance Principle

Ends

Issued by the Group Communication Office

City of Johannesburg

By

Gabu Tugwana

Group Communication, Marketing and Tourism Director

Tel: 011 407 7162

Cell: 082 495 5673