



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

COUNCILLOR NONHLANHLA MAKHUBA
MEMBER OF THE MAYORAL COMMITTEE
TRANSPORT

City of Johannesburg Statement by MMC Cllr Nonhlanhla Makhuba, Transport
Significant Improvements in Joburg Traffic Lights

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Release: **Immediate**

I am happy to announce that the City's interventions to address traffic light downtime is starting to show positive results. This improvement follows the implementation of the City's 'No Joints Policy' earlier this year. The 'No Joints Policy' served to progressively reduce the high incidence of signal downtime at the most critical high volume intersections in the City. The policy did away with the joining of old cables whenever an electrical fault was reported at a downed traffic light. Instead, these damaged cables would be replaced with new cables.

During the 2016/17 financial year, which ended in June, 89 intersections were re-cabled and are now joint free. There has also been an 18% reduction in the average number of daily traffic light faults between November 2016 and June 2017. There has also been a 60% improvement in the average time taken to repair faults, excluding faults caused by power outages. This has resulted in a 55% reduction in the average traffic light downtime per day. Power outages remain a major contributor to traffic signal downtime, constituting 50% of the daily faults reported. Increased interaction between JRA, City Power, and Eskom is being prioritised to address this issue. Similarly, to the JRA, City Power and Eskom are also affected by problems of ageing infrastructure and cable theft, which result in power outages.

In March 2017, the City allocated an additional R6 million to the Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) through the mid-year adjustment process to enable the accelerated implementation of the 'No Joint Policy'. This allocation was also used to improve the JRA's traffic light fault detection systems, to improve signal timings to reduce congestion and for security surveillance of critical intersections that are prone to theft of infrastructure such as cables. Additional funding was also provided for hiring personnel, and the JRA started a process of recruiting additional traffic light repair technicians.

In the new financial year, R45 million has been allocated for the replacement of damaged cables and R30 million has been allocated for installation of uninterrupted power supply (UPS) units at key

intersections. With the additional funding for UPS units, the JRA will be able to install UPS units at 230 high traffic volume intersections per annum.

I am encouraged by the JRA's progress in tackling faulty traffic signals across the City. We are gradually turning the tide on traffic congestion within the City. As the new administration, we will continue to do all we can to tackle the City's infrastructure challenges so we can create an enabling environment for strong economic growth and opportunities for all.

Ends.

For more information please contact:

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