

**METRO WATCH**

**FRIDAYFORUM**

# Only thing public servants are good at is passing the buck

■ **Daniel Amorim writes:** This enormous hole has been open for more than three months for the second time in a year. It is 5m from a curve in the road on one side and 20m from a curve on the opposite end. This road is a thoroughfare for people coming from Malvern and is busy in the mornings and late afternoons. When motorists come around the corner from Gray's Terrace into Westmoreland Road, they are confronted with a huge hole and a mound of soil occupying a full lane on one side of the road. With nowhere to go, they move to the lane for oncoming traffic. This is an accident waiting to happen. I live with constant hooting and screeching of tyres. This has been brought to the attention of all concerned, but

the "don't give a damn" attitude seems to prevail. I plan to take this matter to the Kensington Ratepayers' Association to see whether I can get Kensington residents to stand up for their rights. It's time we unite and make it known to the City of Joburg that we are no longer prepared to pay rates and taxes for public servants who don't give a damn about delivering the services they're paid to deliver. Maybe the time has come for a rates boycott in our suburb, to show our dissatisfaction with service delivery. I am now at my wits' end with the incompetence and indifference of public servants. In the past seven months I have: ■ Taken leave to go to Braamfontein to resolve the issues I've



**ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN:** No one is taking responsibility for fixing this hole and trench, says the writer.



had with the council, only to be treated with contempt. I refuse to go back there because after a day wasted I was no better off than when I started. ■ Called and e-mailed senior managers in Johannesburg Water and City Power, only to be met with promises that do

not get followed through. Then I normally get a flurry of calls from people requesting information about why I am lodging a complaint. When I ask them whether they have read my e-mails, the answer is almost always no. They promise to follow up and to let me know, but I never hear from them until I go over their heads again and the cycle starts up once more. I have even sent the CEO of Johannesburg Water an e-mail detailing my issues and requesting his help. Mr Gerald Dumas has not even replied to my notes and telephone calls. Only after several e-mails to his PA did I get a response copying people reporting to him, with instructions that they were to see to my request. Again I get the calls and it all goes quiet

after that. ■ Made more than 30 calls to Joburg Water Southdale Depot and Mark Kruger's cellphone requesting that they repair the road and pavement in Westmoreland Road. To date nothing has been done. ■ Made more than 15 calls to City Power's Siemert Road Depot and the depot manager requesting that they repair the pavement and the loose three-phase connections in my meter box. To date, nothing. ■ Contacted both depot managers of the Johannesburg Roads Agency Norwood Depot to inform them that the road has not been resurfaced after the new water and electricity connections were made, only to be told that it's not their problem. They quickly pass the buck to City Power and Joburg

## Can we help you?

**MetroWatch** is a service by *The Star* for ratepayers whose complaints about bad service or treatment from local government agencies and departments have fallen on deaf ears. Fax 011-836-6186 or e-mail [metrowatch@inl.co.za](mailto:metrowatch@inl.co.za), telling us about your problem. Include your contact details.

Water: When I contact these people, they assure me that they have provided a work order to the JRA, and the buck gets passed again, going around in circles.

## Waiting for streetlights to be fixed Why such a repair time gap?

■ **Yvonne Osborn writes:** I have called City Power twice, only to be told that it takes seven to 14 working days to repair streetlights. Regents Park is without lights. I called this morning and was told that if I was not prepared to wait 14 days, the consultant would

relay the message to her supervisor. What kind of attitude is this? We are taxpayers and we expect service from the City of Joburg. ■ **Osborn writes again:** I managed to get the lights working again. I find the waiting time to be ridiculous.

■ **Gina Bergman writes:** About six weeks ago they dug up a square metre of road at the corner of Sylvia Pass and Babington Road, Mountainview/-Fairwood and have never been back to the repairs, or whatever is supposed to be done there. Will they take another

three months to come and do their work, and then wait another three months to resurface the road? Help! ■ **Bergman writes again:** At last they finished the work and actually resurfaced this street. Many thanks for your input and effort.

## Rates bill under wrong name an inconvenience

■ **L. Hotz writes:** My wife passed away in November 2006 and in due course her estate was wound up and the Birdhaven apartment in which we lived was transferred to me on July 29 2008. This coincided with the change over to the system of direct billing of rates. In August I went to the Sandton offices to inform them of the change in ownership and to request that the rates bill be under my name. I then made inquiries and was told that the deeds office notifies the municipality almost immediately.



BY ANNA COX

I then returned to the Sandton office at the end of August, where they would not even look at the documentation and was again told that it takes three months. I have been back to the office every month since then. The last time I went, I was told that the delay is in the municipality's computers and a note was to be made on the computer on my file. This month I found that the bill is still not under my name. I am tired of wasting my time at the office and it would appear that it is almost impossible to see any higher official. Please help. ■ **Hotz writes again:** I wish to express my gratitude for your efforts on my behalf. The bill is now under my name. I am in awe in regard to the speed with which this was accomplished.

■ **Rehana Mahomed writes:** We sold our property in Lenasia south in 2006. My son paid in R10 000 in order for the City of Joburg to issue the necessary clearance certificate. I have been talking to the attorneys since 2007, as well as the city, to secure the refund but to no avail. I am still out of pocket for the refund amount. I tried getting assistance from Legal Wise, but to date I've not been successful. I would be grateful for any assistance in recovering this amount. ■ **Mahomed writes again:** I did receive a response from the City of Joburg. According to them, the attorneys deposited the refund cheque in March 2007. ■ **Mahomed writes again:** Once you had made contact with them, they contacted me immediately and then amazingly, I got a response from the attorneys to say they received the cheque a week ago and refunded me the next day.

## BAROMETER

Complaints received by **MetroWatch** last week:  
**35** on billing    **15** on Joburg Water  
**6** on City Power    **7** on City Parks  
**3** on Joburg Metro Police    **5** on Metrobus  
**5** on Pikitup    **5** on Joburg Roads Agency

## BRIEF

Johannesburg Water would like to inform residents of water disruptions due to maintenance work:  
**Morningside:** West Road South on Tuesday, February 10, from 9am to 4pm for the relocation of a valve.  
**Florida:** New, Shamrock, Main, Koppie, Parklane, Mary and Madeline streets on Wednesday, February 4, from 9am to 4pm for a new connection to water mains.  
**Soweto:** Phiri, Senaoane, Mapetla and Chiawelo on Wednesday, February 4, from 8am to 4pm.  
**Athol:** Dennis and Katherine roads on Tuesday, February 3, from 9am to 3.30pm.  
 For more information, residents can call the 24-hour helpline at 011-688-1500 or visit the website at [www.johannesburgwater.co.za](http://www.johannesburgwater.co.za)

**NOTICE OF A SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED GENERAL WASTE LANDFILL SITE AND A HAZARDOUS WASTE HOLDING FACILITY IN LEPHALALE, LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

**INVITATION TO COMMENT**  
 Deat 12/12/20/1399

Eskom is presently constructing a 6 X 800MW (4 800MW total installed capacity) coal-fired power station. This station is known as the Medupi Power Station and is situated approximately 15km northwest from the town of Lephalale in Limpopo Province. In order to comply with relevant legal requirements all waste materials from Medupi's construction must be disposed of in an appropriately licensed waste disposal facility. The Waste Dump which exists at the Town of Lephalale is not licensed, and therefore cannot currently be utilised. As a result Eskom presently transports all Medupi wastes to the Johannesburg area, for final disposal. It is therefore proposed that a landfill site be established in the area to dispose of the waste generated during construction and operation phases of the power station. In addition this facility would be utilised to accommodate general and hazardous waste from the existing Matimba Power Station, as well as from two proposed future power stations in the Waterberg area.

Notice is given in terms of Regulations published in Government Notice R. 385 in Government Gazette No. 28753 of 21 April 2006, under Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998), as amended, that **Eskom Holdings Ltd** proposes to construct a general landfill and a hazardous waste storage facility in Lephalale, Limpopo Province.

In terms of Sections 24 and 24(D) of the Act, as read with Government Notices Regulations 22 – 26 and R. 386 (Item 1 (k); 1 (l); 1 (m); 1 (p); 7; 13; 15 and 16) and R. 387 (Item 1 (c); 1 (e); 1 (f); 1 (g); 1 (h); 1 (i); and 1 (o) ), a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment is required for this proposed project.

This project has been registered with the National Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism under Application Reference Number Deat 12/12/20/1399.

In this regard, Enviroolution (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as an independent environmental consultant to undertake the required environmental impact assessment and public participation for the proposed project. To obtain further information and register on the project database, please submit your name, contact information and interest in the project to:

**Netisha Chetty at the Public Participation Office, Enviroolution Consulting (Pty) Ltd, Tel: 0861 444 499 Fax: 0861 626 222 E-mail: [netisha@enviroolution.co.za](mailto:netisha@enviroolution.co.za) on or before 13 February 2009.**

**This project is conducted by Enviroolution Consulting on behalf of Eskom.**  
**Please register your interest in the project within 30 days of this notice.**

**GAUTENG LEGISLATURE**

**THE GAUTENG PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO INTRODUCE THE GAUTENG ENTERPRISE PROPELLER AMENDMENT BILL, 2009 IN THE GAUTENG LEGISLATURE**

The above mentioned Bill was published in English in the Gauteng Provincial Extraordinary **Gazette No 13 on 26 January 2009** for public comments and general information.

The bill seeks to provide for the deletion of provisions pertaining to the raising of short term-loans and overdrawing of bank accounts, to facilitate processes arising after the listing of the Gauteng Enterprise Propeller as an entity in terms of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No. 1 of 1999), and to provide for matters connected therewith.

People, who wish to comment on the bill, may send their written comments to:

**Office of the Secretary  
 C/o Acting Committee Coordinator  
 (Ms. Tinyiko Fanti)  
 Gauteng Provincial Legislature  
 Private Bag X52  
 Johannesburg  
 2000**

**Tel: (011) 498 5789  
 Mobile: (079) 522 9017  
 Fax: (011) 498 5719**

Comments must reach the above office on or before Monday, 16 February 2009.

Copies of the Gazette may be obtained from Government Printers, Publications Section, Vermeulen and Bosman Streets, Pretoria at R2.50 per copy

**GAUTENG LEGISLATURE**

**THE GAUTENG PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO INTRODUCE THE GAUTENG GAMBLING AMENDMENT BILL, 2009 IN THE GAUTENG LEGISLATURE**

The above mentioned Bill was published in English in the Gauteng Provincial Extraordinary **Gazette No 14 on 26 January 2009** for public comments and general information.

The bill seeks to provide to amend the Gauteng Gambling Act, 1995 so as to insert the definition of bingo; to expand the definition of totalisator; to include gambling devices under equipment requiring license for the purpose of gambling; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

People, who wish to comment on the bill, may send their written comments to:

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**GAUTENG LEGISLATURE**

**UHULUMENI WESIFUNDAZWE SASEGAUTENG UHLOSE UKWETHULA UMTHETHOSICHIBIYELO WESIKHUNGO ESISINGETHE EZAMABHIZINISI, 2009 KWISISHAYAMTHETHO SASEGAUTENG**

Lo Mthethosichibiyelo obalulwe ngenhla washicilelwa ngesiNgesi kwiGazethi Yesifundazwe SaseGauteng Eyisipesheli enguNo. 13 mhla zi-26 kuMasingana 2009 ukuze umphakathi ukwazi ukuphawula futhi wazi ngawo.

Lo Mthethosivivinyo kuhloswe ngawo ukuba kuhlizekelwe ukucinywa kokuthize okuhlizekelwe ngumthetho maqondana nemalimboleko yesikhathi esifushane kanye nokukhishwa kwamanani eqale esikhwameni sasebhangwe, ukuze kubhekwane nezinhlelo ezizoba khona ngemva kokufakwa ohlwini kweSikhungo Esisingethe Ezamabhizinisi njengesikhungo esizimele ngokwemigomo yoMthetho Wokuphawula Kwezimali Zomphakathi, 1999 (UMthetho onguNo. 1 wango-1999), kanye nokuhlizekela izindaba eziphathelele nalokho.

Abantu abafisa ukuphawula ngalo Mthethosivivinyo bangabhala bathumele izimvo zabo kuleli kheli:

**Office of the Secretary  
 C/o Acting Committee Coordinator (Ms. Tinyiko Fanti)  
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 Private Bag X52  
 Johannesburg  
 2000**

**Ucingo: (011) 498 5789  
 Iselula: (079) 522 9017  
 Isihlanzandaba: (011) 498 5719**

Izimvo kumele zifike kuleli hhovisi lungakadluli usuku lwamhla zi-16 kuNhlolanja 2009

Amakhophi eGazethi ayatholakala kubashicileli bakwa-Government Printers, oPhikweni Lokushicilela, eMigwagheni u-Vermeulen noBosman ePitoli, ngenani elingama-R2.50 ikhophi ngayinye.