

MEDIA STATEMENT BY DA CLLR DARRYL MOSS, FINANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES, TSHWANE CAUCUS: PRETORIA: 1 NOVEMBER 2013

WATER PROBLEMS ON THE WAY

Residents of Tshwane should brace themselves for possible water supply problems due to industrial action by Metro staff.

Sources inside Tshwane indicate that staff members in the maintenance section of the water department are very unhappy about cuts in overtime work. The staff has been told to cut back on emergency repair work done after hours because of a shortage of funds. In addition, overtime payment for sanctioned emergency repairs will only be paid to staff in January 2014.

The impact of the overtime limitation is that no emergency repairs on water pipe leaks and bursts may be carried out after 22:00. Thus, if a pipe bursts at midnight, nobody will attend to it and the water will continue to run down the streets until the next morning.

This will also impact on the water supply as systems will have to be closed down only during working hours, leaving residents and business without water during peak operating hours.

DA Councillor Darryl Moss said that it was a serious concern when overtime was cut within the first four months of the financial year. "It seems that the budgeting process was poorly handled if the department runs out of money so early in the year. It also shows that the ANC run administration is not serious about repairs and maintenance to aging infrastructure, despite repeated speeches from the Executive Mayor that more funds were being directed into this area" he said.

It is understood that the maintenance staff are refusing to work until their grievances are addressed by senior management and are waiting at the depots until management arrives to answer questions.

Councillor Darryl Moss

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