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**MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of Johannesburg and City Power Denounce Eskom's Threat to Disrupt Electricity Supply

The City of Johannesburg (CoJ) and City Power are deeply concerned by Eskom's recent public notice announcing its intention to interrupt the electricity supply to the city. The city strongly condemns this move as unjust, counterproductive, and potentially harmful to the residents and businesses of Johannesburg.

The CoJ has consistently demonstrated its commitment to meeting its financial obligations and has engaged with Eskom to address billing issues. However, Eskom has failed to provide clarity on disputed billing charges, forcing the city to seek legal recourse to protect the rights and interests of its citizens.

Contrary to Eskom's claims, there are ongoing disputes regarding overbilling of over R3.4 billion, with a pending appeal and monthly declarations since July 2024. The city has repeatedly raised concerns about this continued overbilling, which Eskom has failed to address, placing additional strain on the city's resources.

"We are committed to ensuring uninterrupted access to electricity for the people of Johannesburg," said Tebogo Moraka, Group Financial Officer. "We urge Eskom to retract its public notice and engage in genuine, good-faith negotiations to resolve these matters constructively."

Eskom's approach of "pay now and resolve disputes later" in its dealings with the City of Johannesburg can no longer go unchallenged. There is also an option of IGR to resolve intergovernmental disputes which Eskom keeps disregarding.

The City, in consultation with its legal counsel, will explore all available legal avenues to prevent any disruptions to the electricity supply. We urge Eskom to reassess its stance and engage with the City in finding a mutually beneficial resolution. In the meantime, the City has formally requested that Eskom retract the Public Notice within five days.

The people of Johannesburg deserve reliable and efficient services, and we will not let Eskom's actions compromise their well-being. We remain committed to serving the best interests of our citizens and will take all necessary steps to protect their rights.

ENDS

Issued by the City of Joburg

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