

The troubles at Pikitup continue. This time it is an illegal strike that will result in our bins not being collected. Pikitup have asked residents not to put out their bins until the strike has been resolved.

Pikitup MD Amanda Nair did note at an Oversight Committee meeting that the entity was battling with labour issues resulting from poor management and leadership in the past. Pikitup had allowed their labour force to dominate for too long.

In order to turn around the entity and reduce its losses (currently around R350 million) some changes had to be made. And it seems that it is these changes that are causing the current labour problems.

When you add in the fact that the unions are losing the trust of, and control over, their members, then wildcat or illegal strikes like this one (and the postal workers in March) are going to be more commonplace in future.

So until further notice, here is what I advise,

- 1) Put out your bins just in case there are collections. But be prepared to bring them in the next day.
- 2) Keep listening to the radio and reading newspapers or online media for updates. I will send out info as and when I receive it.
- 3) Recycle. Separate out your plastic milk and cooldrink bottles, and put them out in a plastic bin bag for the trash pickers to take on trash collection day. Put out your paper on the paper pick up days (usually Mondays in Ward 103
- 4) The garden sites may not be open due to the strike. Our nearest is the Ballyclaire Garden site, corner William Nicol and Ballyclaire Drive. If they are open, then garden refuse, leaves, glass bottles, electronic waste, metal, etc can be taken there.

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Press release from Pikitup - 6 May 2013

PIKITUP, the City of Johannesburg's waste management entity is disappointed at the illegal strike action taken by Pikitup staff who are SAMWU members regarding issues surrounding the implementation of biometric access control, driver breathalyser tests, worker transportation services and half days on payday.

Pikitup MD Amanda Nair says, "It is unfortunate that our employees have resorted to an unprotected strike in relation to their grievances. It is a completely unacceptable course of action as it goes against the Labour Relations Act. As Pikitup management, we will

not tolerate such disregard for the law and will take swift legal action in dealing with all involved.”

Pikitup is currently implementing an aggressive transformation and turnaround strategy, which involves large-scale improvements in all areas of governance and operations efficiency across its business.

In accordance with this transformation strategy, the waste management entity has recently introduced biometric access control to replace the legacy system with a more efficient and accurate digital system.

Breathalyser testing has been implemented to ensure the safety of Pikitup employees and the general public. Testing is conducted on a regular basis to guarantee adherence with proper road safety regulations.

Previously, Pikitup employees requiring transportation were picked up and dropped off at central points on a daily basis using Pikitup trucks. Unfortunately this is not sustainable, but alternative measures have been identified to streamline the process and to make sure all employees are able to get to work on time.

In addition, Pikitup employees will not be allowed to take half days on pay days as has been condoned in the past. This disrupts services crucial to the City of Joburg.

“In order for our transformation policies to work, employees will have to play a critical role in achieving Pikitup’s strategic objectives and turning the City of Joburg into a world class African city.” says Nair.

Residents and Business owners are requested to hold back their bins until further notice as we try to resolve these issues with the SAMWU Union. We apologise to the residents for any inconvenience caused.

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