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City Power Johannesburg

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## MEDIA STATEMENT

### City Power implements load reduction in areas with exceedingly high usage levels

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Electricity consumption in the City of Johannesburg has reached critical levels, forcing the city's energy entity, City Power, to embark on stringent measures to protect the grid from total collapse. These measures include intensifying the implementation of ripple relay systems to cut electricity to geysers in homes where the systems are under threat, reducing load at substations with higher consumption and those under threat, and intensifying cut-off operations against illegal connections.

While other measures such as ripple relay and cutoffs of illegal connections are currently underway to relieve the severe strain on our electricity network due to a massive increase in energy demand, City Power will implement load reduction starting Monday, 10 June 2024. Load reduction will be implemented during peak times from 6 to 10 am and 4 to 10 pm in high-density areas and suburbs with concerning usage levels that threaten to overload the electricity equipment. Load Limiting, through smart meters, will also be implemented in July to further assist customers in saving energy without switching them off completely.

The decision to initiate load reduction follows extensive efforts to encourage customers to use electricity wisely and efficiently in recent weeks. Despite warnings about the constrained electricity network in the city, residents have not reduced their electricity consumption, and energy demand has continued to rise.

Part of our measures to lighten the load on the grid through load reduction includes the installation of ripple relays. A ripple receiver is part of a load management system used to control the electricity supply to the geyser during peak hours. Geysers are among the biggest electricity guzzlers, accounting for up to 50% of monthly household energy costs. These ripple relay receivers at different households are connected to at least 69 of our substations, and we can monitor customers' consumption load remotely. City Power will remotely switch off the customer geyser once they reach high consumption levels.

Below are the substations of the Ripple Relay program receivers:

To download the list of Ripple Relay substations, [click here](#)

Mondeor	Marlboro (Eskom Old Alex)	John Ware 1, 2, 3 & 4	Wilropark S/S	Windsor S/S
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Mulberton	Orchards 1 & 2	Braamfontein 1, 2 & 4	Peter Road S/S	North Riding 11kv S/S
Moffat 1& 2	Bellevue 3 & 4	Grand Central S/S	Christiaan de Wet S/S	Bordeaux 6.6kv S/S
Robertsham 1&2	Observatory 1& 2	Water Fall S/S	Robertville S/S	Randburg 6.6kv S/S
Van Beek 1 & 2	Observatory S` S`	Vorna Valley S/S	Roodepoort S/S	Fontainbleau S/S
Durban	Bellevue S` S`	Noordwyk S/S	Manufacta S/S	Morningside S/S
Kazerne	Hursthill 1 & 2	Allandale S/S	Penny str S/S	Bryanston 6.6kv S/S
Pritchard 1& 2	Eikenhof 1& 2	Westfield S/S	Randburg 11 kv S/S	Brynorth 6.6 kv S/S
Wemmer 1 & 2	Rosebank 1& 2	Nursery S/S	Fairlands 11kv S/S	Brynorth 11 kv S/S
Cleveland 1, 2, 3 & 4	Parkhurst	Ontdekkers S/S	Bond st 11kv S/S	
Siemert 1 & 2	Roosevelt 1& 2	Florida Glen S/S	Harley st 11kv S/S	
Gresswold 1 & 2	Fort 1 & 2	Florida North S/S	Dainfern 22.2 / 11kv S/S	
Alex 3 & 4	Ridge 1 & 2	Florida S/S	Hurlingham 11kv S/S	
Rosebank 1 & 2	Westfield 1 & 2	Glen Lea S/S	Olivedale 11kv S/S	
Alexandra	Bree 1, 2, 3 & 4	Kloofendal(local) S/S	Houtkoppen 11kv S/S	

Parallel to that, City Power continues to intensify the removal of illegal connections and revenue collection operations across the City of Johannesburg this winter season. This seeks not only to alleviate pressure on the system but to recover the billions owed to it

and send a strong message to non-paying customers to pay for the services they use daily or have their power supply cut off. From our observations, those who are illegally connected or tampered with meters, are amongst the highest consumers of electricity, because they do not experience the financial consequences of keeping high and irresponsible usage.

Additionally, City Power has recorded an enormous increase in the average evening peak load in some areas, which went up by 65%, from 25MW during the summer months to 33MW between April and May 2024. In some instances, the load reaches 42MW, constituting a 110% increase in consumption levels in comparison with the warmer season. During January and March this year, the average off-peak consumption at some of our substations has been sitting at 20MW. Between April and May, consumption shot up by 50%, increasing the off-peak load to 30MW. With temperatures expected to drop even more between June and July, the consumption levels could have dire consequences on our network infrastructure if load reduction is not urgently implemented.

Our network is now at critical levels due to continuous demand, which is higher than the electricity equipment can withstand. As a result, load reduction will be implemented in areas where the load exceeds the designated maximum capacity of our transformers, transmission lines, or cables. Over 80 areas will be affected and grouped into 6 blocks for load reduction, which will not exceed 2 1/2hrs per block. The schedule will be implemented during peak hours, in the mornings between 04h00 to 10h00 and the evenings between 16h00 to 22h00. Each block will have its power supply switched off for 2 1/2 hours daily until the network stabilises.

Below are the areas which will be affected:

To download the load reduction schedule and areas, [click here](#)

Mountain view	Thembelihle	Princess
Pimville zone 9	Pennyville	Precast
Freedom Park	Alexandra	Slovo
Matholesville	Naturena	Lawley
Tshepisoong	Kliptown	Vlakfontein
Klipfontein	Mayibuye	

City Power is implementing load reduction as the last resort, an urgent and unavoidable necessity to protect the electricity infrastructure from overloading which can lead to the equipment exploding, catching fire, and resulting in prolonged widespread outages and delays will incur in repairing the damages and replacing the equipment. Residents are also reminded that although loadshedding is currently suspended until further notice, should it be reinstated, load reduction will continue parallel to loadshedding.

The residents of Johannesburg are encouraged once again to reduce their electricity usage as the strain on the system is severe. City Power remains committed to engaging with customers, providing education on energy conservation, and promoting responsible usage practices. This includes advocating for a change in consumer behavior, by simply making it a habit to keep non-essential appliances off. Customers are encouraged to explore alternative energy sources such as using gas appliances where possible. These necessary adjustments in electricity usage behaviour can reduce the time we have to implement load reduction across affected areas.

For energy-saving tips, customers are encouraged to visit our website at [www.citypower.co.za](http://www.citypower.co.za)

## **ENDS**

### ***Issued by City Power***

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