



**Media release by Vuleka SSB High School, Randburg, Gauteng,
on inaccurate information provided by the Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality,
Johannesburg, Thursday 10 December 2020.**

Municipal inaccuracy hits low-fee independent school

For immediate release

Incorrect statements about its utilities bill by City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality has caused distress in the community of a school in Randburg that caters for communities such as those in Soweto, Cosmo City and surrounding areas. The inaccuracies were subsequently reported in various media outlets and on social media.

The Executive Head of the Vuleka SSB High School, Mr Sanele Majola, has called on the MMC to address the situation in which municipal officials have provided false information to the media.

The school has been incorrectly billed by the municipality, which claims that it owes R3.7 million in unpaid electricity bills. The school diligently pays its electricity for all amounts that are not disputed and are due for electricity consumed. It has been attempting without success to resolve the dispute with the municipality since January 2017, and as a result has had to resort to the High Court to intervene.

The High Court of 4 November 2020 granted an Order interdicting and restraining the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality from implementing any credit control and debt collection measures, including restricting and/or terminating any municipal services, including the supply of water and electricity.

Mr Majola said that a statement by the municipality to media, and subsequent one-sided media reports and social media postings, has led to distress in the school community among some who fear electricity cuts in the middle of their examinations.

Amongst these inaccurate statements was that power had been cut off to the school, which is untrue, and which, if it had been done, would have been in defiance of the High Court Order.

In the event, matriculation students wrote an English paper yesterday and are set to write the remaining matriculation examination papers later this and next week.

Mr Majola has called on the MMC for Environment, Infrastructure and Services, Mr Mpho Moerane, to apply his mind to the uncertainty caused by the actions of his representatives.

“I make this call because the municipality has since January 2017 dragged its feet in respect of our representations to them. In doing so, the municipality directly negatively impacts on the wellbeing of learners. We are sure the MMC would not wish to compromise the education of young people already facing massive challenges in our society,” he said.

“As a school and non-profit organisation, we always put the best interest of the child and parent at heart when dealing with issues of sustainability and therefore question any unfair practice that might jeopardise the quality of education that we offer to our children,” Mr Majola added.

He said the school awaited with interest for the municipality to let it have true and proper statements and accounts setting out the detailed compilation and calculation of the debits and credits in early January 2021 – within 60 days of the Order – as instructed by the High Court.

The High Court also requires the resolution and finalisation of the disputes within 90 calendar days of the Order.

Ends statement

Media contact: Theo Coggin
theo@quo-vadis.co.za, 082-900-0168

Client contact: Sanele Majola,
Executive Head, Vuleka SSB, 078-110-3777

Vuleka SSB is a non-profit, low-fee independent school registered with the Gauteng Department of Education. It is reliant for its funding on donations and church support. SSB focuses on providing affordable education to those who otherwise could not afford it.