



**Media release by Vuleka SSB High School, Randburg, Gauteng,
on continued failure by the Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality to provide information,
Johannesburg, Monday 11 January 2021**

School expresses concern for council inaction

For immediate release

The Executive Head of the Vuleka SSB High School, Mr Sanele Majola, has expressed deep concern that the Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality has not provided any further information in respect of its billing dispute with the school.

This is in apparent violation of a High Court order of 4 November 2020 instructing the council to provide the school with “true and proper statements and accounts setting out the detailed compilation and calculation of the debits and credits” within 60 days.

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 had to resort to the High Court to intervene. The school serves people living in areas such as Alexandra, Soweto, Cosmo City and surrounding suburbs.

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.

Inaccurate statements by the municipality, reported in the media, caused considerable distress towards the end of last year in the community of the school in Randburg.

“That there has been no response from the council, far less the detailed information that they were ordered to provide by the High Court, is an indication of the uncaring attitude of the council.

“We are in the business of providing education to adults of tomorrow. Part of that is to instill a sense of their civic duties and responsibility. How can we do so effectively when the very organisation that expects citizens to pay their dues blatantly ignores a directive from a high court of our land?” Mr Majola asked.

Mr Majola has again 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 made this call last year, and we have heard nothing. In continuing to drag their feet over this matter, the MMC and the municipality directly negatively impacts on the wellbeing of learners. The MMC now needs to take firm action so that the education of our learners is not further compromised in 2021,” he said.

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

Ends statement

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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.