

Pikitup strike ends

JOBURG – The South African Municipal Workers' Union (Samwu) has ended the disruptive protest action embarked on at City of Johannesburg's waste management Pikitup which left stench in the CBD.

16 hours ago



A young man cycling in stinking Braamfontein streets.

The decision to end the protest action follows the intervention by Gauteng Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) led by MEC Jacob Mamabolo. Samwu deputy general secretary Simon Mathe said after a series of meetings and consultation with their members, they have decided to end the protest action at Pikitup and have signed an agreement with Cogta and the City of Johannesburg to this effect.

All workers are expected to report for duty on 4 December.

Mathe said, “Parties have agreed to allow the provincial government to appoint a senior council who will work with all parties with the aim of facilitating the process of creating a conducive environment for further engagements with the aim of resolving grievances put forward by workers at Pikitup.”

He said they have further agreed on a process that will manage the adverse effect of the principle of no work no pay for workers who were on strike. This will include various options including forgoing leave days to cover for the work time while the union will engage with management on how workers who do not have leave days will be covered in this agreement.

“We are pleased that this process will also benefit all employees within the City of Johannesburg as the city manager has been tasked with implementing a process that will resolve salary disparities within the City. This process will be completed within the next two weeks and will prioritise workers at Pikitup,” Mathe said.

The union also hope that the agreement will assist in resolving issues which led to the strike and the union was pleased that the process will also include a probe into the working relationship between the managing director of Pikitup [Amanda Nair] and employees. This process is expected to have been concluded within three months.

“We therefore urge all workers at Pikitup to return to work and allow this process to be fully exhausted we urge Pikitup management not to victimise workers who were part of the protest action,” Mathe said.