

MEDIA RELEASE
by CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (CDP)

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Johannesburg billing problems

"One can only wonder how far the Johannesburg billing crisis would have developed, had it not been that the Minister of Cooperative Government himself had not been adversely affected," says Johannesburg Christian Democratic Party Councillor, Linda Pretorius.

"Unfortunately the remedying impact, if any, will only be felt after the elections. This leaves us with no choice but to remind the electorate under whose governance the problem arose in the first place, and what it took to have the problem addressed – let alone solved. We have little reason to believe that similar problems will not develop after the elections, unless the electorate make their dissatisfaction felt where it matters – at the ballot box."

Johannesburg se rekeningprobleme

"n Mens kan maar net bespiegel watter omvang Johannesburg se rekeningprobleme nie sou aanneem, as dit nie was dat die Minister van Koöperatiewe regering nie self hieronder deurgeloop het nie," sê die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) se raadslid in Johannesburg, Linda Pretorius.

"Ongelukkig sal die impak van die regstellende optrede, indien enige, eers na die verkiesing bepaal kan word. Dit laat ons met geen ander keuse nie as om kiesers daaraan te herinner onder wie se bewind die probleem in die eerste plek ontstaan het, en wat dit geveerg het om erkenning te kry dat die probleem bestaan, laat staan nog aangespreek word. Ons het min rede om te glo soortgelyke probleme sal nie maar net na die verkiesing weer kop uitsteek nie, tensy die kiesers hul stem laat hoor waar dit saak maak – met die trek van hul kruisies."

Minister apologises for billing crisis

Johannesburg - Acting Cooperative Governance Minister [Nathi Mthethwa](#) has apologised to Johannesburg residents for a widescale billing crisis but is "confident" that the issue can be resolved. "Again, as government we would like to reiterate our apology for any inconvenience caused and appeal to residents of Johannesburg to work with the city in resolving any outstanding matters," said Mthethwa. Mthethwa received a report on the crisis on Thursday from Gauteng cooperative governance MEC Humphrey Mmemezi. Mmemezi said the Gauteng department was exercising closer oversight on the city after the crisis. "Based on the report submitted by MEC Mmemezi's office, the ministry is confident that the issues are being resolved," Mthethwa said. The report identifies 12 problem areas, the action taken to resolve them, the department or entity responsible for resolving them and the time it would take to solve the problems.

"The MEC reported on the actions the city had taken on the issues of incorrect stand and physical addresses, exorbitant billing amounts, deeds transfers that were not updated on the billing system, estimated meters, wrongly printed statements, incorrect cut-offs and other problems that had caused an uproar among Johannesburg residents," the department said in the statement. The report included progress that Mmemezi's office had made on the 81 queries that had been received by his office from the Public Protector on the billing system problems.

Johannesburg Mayor [Amos Masondo](#) said in his state of the city address on Wednesday that Johannesburg residents affected by billing problems would be provided with a "favourable settlement arrangement". Masondo said in a bid to resolve the issue a resolution was taken at a mayoral committee meeting on March 3 that as from March 2011 billing queries between 90 days and 12 months will receive a 25% discount. This would be while queries that were 12 months and older were given a 50% discount. The resolution comes after some residents approached the media after they received inflated monthly bills and others had their services cut off, despite having their accounts up to date.