

MEDIA STATEMENT

City Power marks International Anti-Corruption Day with renewed governance commitment

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City Power reaffirmed its zero-tolerance stance against corruption, fraud, and unethical conduct during an event held to commemorate International Anti-Corruption Day, which is observed globally on 9 December each year to raise awareness about the damaging effects of corruption on institutions, economies, and communities.

The event took place yesterday, Friday, 05 December 2025, at City Power's head offices in Reuven and featured a focused knowledge-sharing programme led by governance and ethics experts from the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and Barloworld South Africa, along with invited guests from the Office of the Public Protector, the City of Johannesburg Group Forensic and Investigation Services, the Office of the Ombudsman, the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC), and the Hawks. The programme reinforced City Power's commitment to integrity, accountability, and a culture of ethical conduct. The entity emphasised that strengthening accountability, institutional discipline, and transparency is central to improving service delivery and rebuilding public trust, as City Power works to reset its social contract with customers.

Chief Commercial Officer, Thamsanqa Mathiso, emphasised that rooting out corruption remains essential to restoring customer confidence.

"It becomes a sad reality when we, as employees, are found to be working with contractors who steal cables or individuals in communities who steal and vandalise our infrastructure. The elements of corruption are not only about stealing cables but also go to the extent that they endanger the lives of our people. Corruption steals from our communities, weakens the organisation, and jeopardises reliable power supply. That is why we are tightening controls, enforcing accountability, and ensuring that every action supports clean governance. Over the next six months, City Power will intensify its anti-corruption and maladministration roadshows at all Service Delivery Centres (SDCs) to strengthen awareness and promote ethical conduct," said Mathiso.

Reflecting on the 2024/25 financial year, Mathiso commended the organisation's significant progress in addressing the previous Auditor-General of South Africa's findings, noting major improvements in oversight and consequence management.

“We have acted decisively on prior audit findings to close weaknesses and prevent wrongdoing by treating recommendations as an urgent requirement for stronger accountability and transparency,” Mathiso added.

In the year under review, and under the leadership of CEO Tshifularo Mashava, City Power resolved 155% of AGSA findings and 163% of internal audit findings, demonstrating a decisive turnaround in governance compliance. This progress was accompanied by equally strong advances in the fight against infrastructure crime, including cable theft, vandalism, and illegal connections, which continue to undermine service delivery. Arrests, convictions, and intelligence-driven operations have intensified, showing that criminal acts against public infrastructure will be confronted with urgency. As a result, in the previous financial year, infrastructure-related incidents have dropped by 27% year-on-year, from 1,556 to 1,140. Arrests increased from 165 to 216, backed by more than 1,157 joint operations with law-enforcement partners, including the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department (JMPD), targeting high-risk areas where illegal connections and vandalism threaten the network.

Internally, City Power launched a full-scale disciplinary and legal processes following a comprehensive forensic investigation into procurement and payment irregularities. The investigation, authorised by CEO Tshifularo Mashava and initiated in October 2023 after concerns were raised by City Power Chief Operating Officer Charles Tlouane, uncovered widespread collusion involving fraudulent job numbers, duplicate approvals, manipulated invoices and contractor misconduct. These actions weakened internal control systems, resulted in financial losses, and directly contravened the Code of Conduct for Municipal Staff Members in Schedule 2 of the Municipal Systems Act.

The forensic audit, led by City Power Chief Audit Executive Sandy Makola, confirmed systemic gaps within the organisation’s procurement framework, and the final report was submitted to the CEO’s office in March 2025. As a result of the findings, fifteen employees were identified for disciplinary action, with one case already before the courts, and payments to implicated contractors halted pending further investigation. Additionally, eleven employees were arrested between July 2024 and February 2025, with several subsequently dismissed. City Power has since strengthened internal controls by tightening procurement approvals, enhancing monitoring tools, and reinforcing compliance processes to prevent any recurrence. These actions form part of City Power’s broader drive to restore institutional discipline, safeguard public funds, and ensure that governance failures are confronted swiftly and transparently.

Speaking on whistleblower protection during the event, Nontokozo Faith Radebe, from the Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa (IDC), emphasised that employees must feel supported when reporting wrongdoing. “Entities must foster an ethical culture and protect individuals. No employee should ever feel isolated for coming forward. It is tough to be a whistleblower, but there are benefits to making the right choices. Reporting misconduct is doing the right thing,” asserted Radebe.

Addressing fraud-risk management, Advocate Oliver Josie reflected on the organisation’s responsibility to safeguard public resources. “Preventing fraud requires vigilance from all of us. By fostering a culture of accountability and awareness, City Power can prevent potential fraud, safeguard its resources, and maintain the confidence of the communities it serves,” said Oliver.

Focusing on anti-bribery and corruption controls, Dr. Yondela Ndema from Barloworld South Africa, warned of the serious consequences unethical practices have on service delivery. “When corruption enters the organisation, morale declines, trust is broken, and communities suffer. Ethical responsibility must be upheld at every level,” stated Dr. Ndema.

Today’s commemoration was to publicly cement City Power’s unwavering stance against corruption and infrastructure crime while reinforcing that clean governance, strong internal controls, and ethical decision-making are fundamental to reliable service delivery. The event also showcased measurable progress in governance reform and encouraged continued collaboration with communities, employees, and law enforcement agencies to safeguard public resources. City Power will continue taking definitive steps to rebuild public trust, protect critical infrastructure.

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ISSUED BY CITY POWER
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