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MEDIA STATEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE OF TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS WELCOME THE APPOINTMENT OF JRA TO INSTALL AND MAINTAIN TRAFFIC LIGHTS IN JOBURG

The Portfolio Committee of Transport and Logistics in the Gauteng Provincial Legislature, led by the Chairperson Hon. Gregory Scheemann, welcomes the appointment of Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) by the department of Roads and Transport to undertake the installation and maintenance of traffic control equipment along provincial roads within the City of Johannesburg.

This development comes after the Committee was briefed this week on the traffic signals programme for Gauteng province. The Committee was informed that the province has a high incident of crimes involving violation of road infrastructure which are driven by the demands for copper cables and scrap metals leading to theft and vandalism of traffic signals. According to the department, an estimated amount of R30 million was lost by the department between 2021 and 2023 which is attributed to the



replacement of stolen and vandalised traffic signals' infrastructure throughout the province.


The Committee was told that the department is responsible for 400 traffic signals geo-located at provincial intersections within five Gauteng municipalities mainly in the City of Joburg with 251 signals, 52 in Tshwane and 65 in Ekurhuleni. According to the department, the City of Joburg has proven to be problematic with high incidents of theft and vandalism.

Therefore, the Committee concurs with the MEC Hon. Kedibone Diale-Tlabela that the appointment of JRA was a critical step in the restoration of traffic lights services to improve safety and facilitate mobility in and around the City.

In relation to the concerns around the traffic signals, the Committee embarked on the Focus Intervention Study (FIS) emanating from budget process of the 2024/25 financial year which was focusing on the lack of maintenance and protection of road infrastructure in the province.

This study revealed that, in addition to the need to develop a comprehensive plan on the maintenance of traffic signals, there is also a need for the law enforcement agencies to work together to protect traffic signals and road infrastructure at large in the province.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to appeal to the citizens of Gauteng to protect traffic signals and any public property and report any vandalism and theft of road infrastructure to the law enforcement authorities.



The vandalism and theft of traffic signals has been significantly costing the provincial government and municipalities in the province, and these criminal activities, are found to have been largely contributing to the road accidents and to some extent, loss of life on our roads.

The Committee is concerned about the damage caused to traffic signals due to negligent driver behaviour and that there are no consequences in such instances and will support measures that could be put in place to recover the costs to repair or replace damaged traffic signal infrastructure.

As part of its mandate, the Committee will, in due course, conduct oversight visits to the traffic signals in the province to assess the work done by JRA.

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ISSUED BY THE GPL'S COMMUNICATIONS UNIT ON BEHALF OF CHAIRPERSON OF
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