

05 September 2025

Mr J. Mettler
City Manager
City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality
Isivuno Building
Cnr Lilian Ngoyi and Madiba Street
PRETORIA
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Dear Mr Mettler

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED: NON-FUNCTIONING STREETLIGHTS AND LACK OF LIGHTING AROUND THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA (HATFIELD CAMPUS)

AfriForum Youth acts as a platform for students and youth to make their voices heard and works to build sustainable youth structures on university campuses across South Africa. Whilst issues relating to civil rights, discrimination and mother-tongue education often take centre stage in the activities of these structures, community safety initiatives – especially on and around campuses – also enjoy significant attention and energy.

Accordingly, on 19 August 2025 around 19:00 AfriForum Youth conducted an inspection on the streets surrounding the Hatfield campus of the University of Pretoria. This inspection revealed a deeply concerning reality: in certain areas around campus only one streetlight out of every twenty is functional (Prospect, South, Hilda, Duxbury, Richard and Herold Street, Lunnon Road), while other areas have no working streetlights at all (Lynnwood and University Road). It is very concerning that no streetlight infrastructure was found in some areas in University Road, Burnett and Prospect Street.

This creates a dangerous environment for students and the broader Hatfield community. Hatfield and surrounds are already identified as a crime hotspot, and a lack of sufficient lighting directly contributes to theft, violent crimes and potential kidnappings. Students attending evening classes, which often finish at 18:00 (or later) are particularly vulnerable when returning to their residences, flats, vehicles or public transport in the dark.

While some streets appear partially lit, this is largely due to light spilling from university property and not due to functional municipal infrastructure. The absence of effective streetlighting is also a major road safety concern especially along Lynnwood Road. The ongoing roadworks combined with a lack of lighting creates a high-accident zone.

AfriForum Youth emphasises that adequate public lighting should not be viewed as a luxury, but rather a crucial factor required to protect the right to freedom and security of the person.

It is furthermore the direct responsibility of the Municipality, the Hatfield CID and the University of Pretoria to take needed action to ensure the safety of students and residents in this ongoing situation.

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• Registration number: 2005/042861/08 • NGO number: 054 - 590

Kindly find a visual map (attached hereto), with specific streets and areas where the lighting is either completely absent or non-functioning.

We therefore urgently call on you to:

1. investigate and repair all non-functional streetlights within 30 days;
2. install additional streetlights in areas where no structures currently exist; and
3. provide AfriForum Youth with a clear plan of action and timeline to address this matter.

AfriForum Youth is willing to assist in finding solutions and even in practical efforts to help restore and improve lighting where possible. However, we wish to stress that we do not want to hear excuses for inaction, but rather concrete solutions and commitments to student and community safety.

Should this matter not be addressed within 30 days of receipt of this letter, AfriForum Youth will escalate the issue further through the appropriate legal, public and media channels.

We look forward to your urgent response and to seeing action taken to bring light back to Hatfield and ensure the safety of students and residents.

Kind regards

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