

# LETSEMENG COUNCIL / LETSEMENG RAAD



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## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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29 July 2021

### COMMUNITY MEMBERS

#### RESTRICTIONS ON THE BUYING OF PRE-PAID ELECTRICITY

It should be noted that as part of our financial reporting requirement and revenue enhancement strategy, we are required to undertake meter audit exercise to ensure that the information that we have on our financial system is correct and linked to the right customer, furthermore we need to ensure that no meters are bypassed and that every community member buys electricity they consume.

Based on the above, and in line with the prescripts of Municipal Systems Act, Council approved policy and several pieces of legislation and case studies, Municipality has implemented its policy to restrict **BUSINESSES** that have defaulted on the payment of their municipal accounts, it should be noted that for the purpose of debt collection, **only BUSINESSES** were restricted from buying electricity, and the restriction will be lifted upon the affected business entering into an acceptable payment arrangement with Municipality. *It should be noted that it is allowed to restrict a service/services that you prioritise if you owe Municipal services, in this case Businesses prioritise pre-paid electricity and do not pay for other Municipal services and therefore put financial burden to the Municipality, some businesses owe Municipality in excess of R 100 000.00.*

The above measure is not punitive but to ensure that the community members pay for all the services they consume, and this initiative is done within the purview and boundaries of the law that governs local government and therefore not unconstitutional.

It should further be noted that Municipality embarked on a meter audit exercise and community was made aware of this, however, some residents did not allow our employees access to their premises, and some residents were not available to give necessary information to our employees to undertake

this meter audit verification. It should be noted that letters were left behind for those residents to fill in the required details and send the completed forms to Municipality to update our records, however, most of the affected residents did not comply with this and as such from the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> July restrictions were placed on these residents accounts in order for them not to buy electricity until such time that we have received the required information. **It should be noted that restriction placed on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> July were not because residents OWE Municipality but because we couldn't verify their meters as per our meter audit verification exercise**, affected residents are therefore urged to forward their details to Municipality in order for the restriction to be lifted.

Residents are informed that the Municipal office will open on Saturday and Sunday (31<sup>st</sup> July and 01<sup>st</sup> August) from 8 am to 1 pm to assist all affected residents.

I would like to urge community members to also register for indigent, majority of the households in Letsemeng are indigent but do not register as such, Council has approved that the maximum household income that you need to earn in order to register as indigent is capped at 2\* old age pension amount which is 2\*R 1890 [R 3780].

Community members are reminded not to spread malicious, inciteful and instigating and wrong information, as this information may cause havoc within our communities. Community members are urged to seek information from Municipality where there are any pertinent issues that affect community at large.

Kindly contact municipal offices at 053 33 00 235 or 053 33 00 203 if your meter was blocked and request assistance thereof.

Kindly contact communication office, Mr. Jimmy Mokgwetsi 053 33 00 200 if you request clarity on the content of this letter

Kind Regards;



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M Lebaka  
Mayor

## GEMEENSKAPSELEDE

### BEPERKINGS OP DIE KOOP VAN VOORBETAALDE ELEKTRISITEIT

Daar moet op gelet word dat ons as deel van ons finansiële verslagdoeningsvereiste en inkomste-verbeteringstrategie verplig is om meter-ouditoefeninge te onderneem om te verseker dat die inligting wat ons oor ons finansiële stelsel het, korrek is en gekoppel is aan die regte kliënt. Verder moet ons sorg dat geen meters omseil word nie en dat elke lid van die gemeenskap elektrisiteit koop wat hulle verbruik.

Op grond van die bogenoemde, en in ooreenstemming met die voorskrifte van die Wet op Munisipale Stelsels, die goedkeuring van die beleid en verskeie wetgewing en gevallestudies, het die munisipaliteit sy beleid geïmplementeer om **BESIGHEDE** wat die betaling van hul munisipale rekeninge versuim het, te beperk. Opgemerkt dat vir die doeleindes van skuldinvordering **slegs BESIGHEDE** beperk is tot die aankoop van elektrisiteit, en die beperking sal opgehef word as die betrokke onderneming 'n aanvaarbare betalingsreëling met die munisipaliteit aangaan. Daar moet op gelet word dat dit toegelaat word om 'n diens / dienste wat u prioritiseer, te beperk as u munisipale dienste verskuldig is, in hierdie geval, besighede prioritiseer voorafbetalde elektrisiteit en betaal nie vir ander munisipale dienste nie, en daarom veroorsaak dit 'n finansiële las vir die munisipaliteit, besighede skuld die munisipaliteit meer as R 100 000,00.

Bogenoemde maatreël is nie strafbaar nie, maar om te verseker dat die gemeenskapslede betaal vir al die dienste wat hulle verbruik, en hierdie inisiatief word gedoen binne die bestek en perke van die wet wat plaaslike regering regeer en dus nie ongrondwetlik is nie.

Daar moet verder op gelet word dat die munisipaliteit 'n meter-ouditoefening begin het en dat die gemeenskap hiervan bewus gemaak is, maar sommige inwoners het nie toegang tot hulle perseel aan ons werknemers gegee nie, en sommige inwoners was nie beskikbaar om die nodige inligting aan ons werknemers te gee om meter-ouditverifikasie te onderneem nie. Daar moet op gelet word dat briewe agtergelaat is vir die inwoners om die vereiste besonderhede in te vul en die ingevulde vorms aan die munisipaliteit te stuur om ons rekords op te dateer, maar die meeste van die inwoners wat geraak word, het nie daaraan voldoen nie en as sodanig vanaf die 26ste en 27ste Julie, beperkings op hierdie inwonersrekeninge geplaas sodat hulle nie elektrisiteit kon koop voordat ons die nodige inligting ontvang het nie. **Daar moet op gelet word dat die beperking wat op 26 en 27 Julie geplaas is, nie die gevolg was van inwoners wat die munisipaliteit skuld nie, maar omdat ons hulle meters nie kon verifieer volgens ons meter-ouditverifikasie-oefening nie**, en daarom word inwoners wat geraak word, versoek om hul besonderhede aan die munisipaliteit deur te gee ten einde die beperking wat opgehef moet word.

Inwoners word in kennis gestel dat die munisipale kantoor op Saterdag en Sondag (31 Julie en 01 Augustus) van 08:00 tot 13:00 sal open om alle inwoners te help.

Ek wil 'n beroep op gemeenskapslede doen om ook vir behoeftiges te registreer. Die meeste huishoudings in Letsemeng is behoeftig, maar registreer nie as sodanig nie. Die Raad het goedgekeur dat die maksimum huishoudelike inkomste wat u moet verdien om as behoeftige te registreer, beperk word 2 \* ouderdomspensioenbedrag wat 2 \* R 1890 is [R 3780].

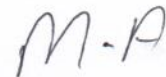
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Gemeenskapslede word daaraan herinner om nie kwaadwillige, aanstigende en aanstigende en verkeerde inligting te versprei nie, aangesien hierdie inligting verwoesting in ons gemeenskappe kan veroorsaak. Gemeenskapslede word versoek om inligting by die munisipaliteit in te win, indien daar relevante kwessies is wat die gemeenskap in die algemeen raak.

Kontak munisipale kantore by 053 33 00 235 of 053 33 00 203 as u meter geblokkeer is en hulp versoek.

Kontak asseblief die kommunikasiekantoor, mnr. Jimmy Mokgwetsi 053 33 00 200 as u duidelikheid wil vra oor die inhoud van hierdie brief.

Vriendelike groete;



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M Lebaka

Mayor