



PUBLIC NOTICE:

PREPAID ELECTRICITY CUSTOMERS TO GET FULL UNITS WHEN PURCHASING ELECTRICITY

- 1) In terms of the Municipal Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy, the Customers on prepaid electricity who have unpaid debts are normally put on a 60/40 debt collection method where 60% of electricity units purchases goes towards paying for their municipal debt, and only get 40% for electricity units.
- 2) **The Merafong City LM Council has now decided to temporarily stop the 60/40 debt collection method used on prepaid electricity customers who are owing on municipal services and property rates.** The stopping of the 60/40 debt collection method will start on Monday 16 August 2021 and continue for a period of three (3) months.
- 3) **This means from Monday 16 August 2021 when Customers buy prepaid electricity, they will get all the electricity units that they have purchased.**
- 4) The municipality will be embarking on a programme of Meter Normalization to remove bypassed/bridged meters. Customers who **continue to tamper with their meters** after the meter has been normalized, will have their **electricity supply removed and may be legally prosecuted in line with the municipal Bylaws.**
- 5) The Indigent Verification Programme will be intensified during the three (3) month period to assist qualifying households to get monthly allocation of 50kw Free Basic Electricity and 6000 litres of Free Basic Water. **Customers** who are currently **on Payment Arrangements** on their municipal accounts **must continue paying** as this is part of the legal payment agreement and doing so will assist Customers to finish paying their debts.
- 6) The **decision of Council to temporarily stop the 60/40 debt recovery** method (Section 28 (d) of the policy) **does not mean** that all **other credit control and debt collection measures have also been stopped.** All Customers who owe municipal services and property rates are required to pay their outstanding accounts and/or to make payment arrangements at the municipal Revenue Department.
- 7) During the three (3) month period, the municipality will be monitoring the programme to check if the buying of prepaid electricity units is improving and if the number of tampered meters is not increasing. **The Merafong Council has stated that if there is no improvement on electricity purchases and if the number of tampered meters is increasing. Then the 60/40 debt collection method will be immediately put back for all prepaid Customers.**
- 8) Therefore it is important that communities work together with the municipality in improving the service delivery in Merafong.

Acting Municipal Manager

11 August 2021

“Thenga Ugesi” – “Reka Motlakase” – “Buy Electricity”