Portfolio Reports

MONTHLY REPORT

PORTFOLIO: Human settlement and Land Development

MONTH: June 2025

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO: François Hattingh

As discussed in previous meeting on 14th of January 2025 – Cllr. Lindy Maritz and I visited Mr. Thebile Segwapa the Building inspector at Merafong. I handed him a list of unfinished houses and renovations to houses in Ward 14. Thebile undertake to follow up and investigate. Also, assuring me I can contact him once a month and he will give me feedback. I also asked him he should check on 110 Olienhout Fochville where residents are not paying for water and Electricity. Also, Olienhout Fochville next to Civic Centre where people occupied and unfinished home and water and electricity are connected.

Corner of Protea and Kraalkop the people is adding a new room to the house. Has this building plans been approved?

Mr. Thebile Segwapa cell number not answering.

Mr. Thebile Segwapa office number not answering.

Mr. Hattingh and Cllr. Lindy went to see Mr. Thebile and he said that he handed the list of the houses to someone else, but he will follow up and sent Mr. Hattingh an e-mail. This did not happen and Mr. Thebile is not answering Mr. Hattingh's phone calls.

Please see attached letter to Cllr. Lindy regarding the properties.

Signature:

Date:

04th of June 2025

Hi Councillor. This is a good starting point. I recently learned our director had written a draft policy on various land issues. We haven't seen it yet. It's probably a good idea to arrange a meeting with her. Neo Molefe - nmolefe@merafong.gov.za. I'll help where I can. Properties have now moved from Legal to Housing, but they don't have capacity. That's why Neo got involved now. Housing also works with informal settlements. I'll send them manager's number. His name is Lemmie. Such stickers should be dealt with as soon as possible before they become more numerous.

From: Cllr. Almè to Cllr. Lindy regarding portfolio Human Settlement and land development (Mr. Francois Hattingh)

WARD 14

REPORT 2025/06/06

PORTFOLIO: WATER AND ELECTRICITY

ELECTRICITY:

5 May Electrical outage Olienhout, Wattle, Waterberry, Ouhout, Sycamore area

11 May Electrical outage Olienhout, Wattle, Waterberry, Ouhout, Sycamore area again

13 May Transformer 2 breaker tripped ext 1 off.

14 May Power outage

18 May Power outage Feeder cable from substation is faulty. Will only be fixed on the 19th

19 May Electrical department struggled to locate the fault but worked till late to fix the problem

21 May Electrical outage Olienhout, ouhout, waterberry end surrounding areas. Eskom transformer one tripped

22 May Electrical outage Kareeboom, wattle ouhout, Amarilla, jacaranda area. Cable fault on the President Hyper feeders. Electrical team worked nonstop in the cold weather to ensure that the power is restored

WATER

There is a water crisis in Merafong and we as community urge Merafong and Rand Water to sort out their problems to assure that the residents of our beautiful towns have water in their taps. Merafong to keep up with the arrangements (debt agreement) they made to pay the outstanding amount to rand water. Residents have been punished enough by not having water in their taps. We have been punished enough for institutional mismanagement. The SAVF Retirement Village suffering the most.

Residents have been asked to restrict their water usage like not to flash their toilets unnecessarily, to catch shower water and dish wash water in a bucket for flashing their toilets. Jet there is still residents who water their gardens 24/7.

Engela van der Merwe

Monthly Report for June Portfolio Road, Storm water and Public Works Member Simon Matlala

The purpose of this report is to make sure that the people get their services delivered to them by the municipality.

1.I would like to thank the municipality for attending to some of our potholes which were very bad like Olienhout corner and Hawthorne. The other streets that were attended to are Peperkorrel, Froneman and corner of Ouhout street.

2.We still having some challenges in the following streets.

A. Keurboom 30 and corner Denneweg street

B.Olienhout no 110 or 71 very bad potholes need to be fixed.

C.Waterberry street no 12,8 and 20 very bad potholes need to be fixed.

D.Kareeboom and Bloekom on the corner there's a bad potholes need to be fixed.

E.Lelielaan very very bad potholes need to be fixed.

F.Sycamor street no 25,23,21, and no 7 very bad potholes need to be fixed

G.Aster street very bad potholes need to be fixed.

H.Disalaan street no very bad potholes need to be fixed.

I.Anamoon street no 26 very bad potholes need to be fixed.

Please we need assistance with these potholes on our street it's a very serious problem needs to be addressed.

Signature.

SIMON MATIALA.

Street Name & Number	Report Date	Ref Nr
Rooibos Avenue 3	12-Feb	Cc6/12/02/2025/09
Ouhout Sreet 4&5	12-Feb	Cc6/12/02/2025/11
Waterberry 8,10,6,4	12-Feb	Cc6/12/02/2025/10
Ebenhout	12-Feb	Cc6/12/02/2025/13
Sycamore	12-Feb	RZGH5KX825
Keurboom 28,30	13-Feb	2LKYZOGW825
Olienhout 77	13-Feb	L07MGLMT25
Corner Anemoon & Stinkh	14-Feb	Cc6/14/02/2025/11
Aster Street	17-Feb	7BC0DVHU25
Dahlia Street	17-Feb	Cc6/18/02/2025/01

Simon Mattala

04-Jun-25

PORTFOLIO:

PUBLIC SAFETY, WARD 14, FOCHVILLE.

MONTH:

Jun-25

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO: JC VAN DER MERWE

1.) ELECTRICAL CABLE FAULTS / THEFT OUTAGES:

LOAD SHEDDING 13 TO 15 MAY 2025, NUMEROUS TIMES WE TRIPPED ON OVER LOADING.

2.) BURGLARIES:

NONE REPORTED IN OUR AREA ON GROUPS, NO INFO FROM SAPS COULD BE OBTAINED.

3.) C.P.F.

SEVERAL OPERATIONS TOGETHER WITH SAPS CONDUCTED AND MANY ARREST MADE.

4.) ACCIDENTS:

SEVERAL ON THE N12 AN KOKOSI ROAD.

5.) CAMERA SYSTEMS:

STILL HUGE SUCESSES AND SEVERAL CRIMINALS WERE ARRESTED BY SAPS, CPF AND PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANIES.

6.) SPEED HUMBS: NO FEEDBACK.

7.) POTHOLES:

SEVERAL BEEN DONE BY COUNCIL IN OTHER WARDS.

COMMUNITY FIXED MANY FROM THE DONATIONS, AND IS STILL BUSY. JOB BEEN DONE BY PRO'S.

8.) ADDITIONAL:

NONE

9.) NEW PUBLIC SAFETY VEHICLES / TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT.

PUBLIC SAFETY/TRAFFIC DEP. VERY ACTIVE IN FOCHVILLE, AND HELPFUL AT ACCIDENTS. STOP STREETS BEEN IGNORED MORE AND MORE EVERY DAY.

11.) TAXI / AVANZAS:

TAXI PATROLS STILL PATROLLING AND IN CHARGE WITH NO REPORTED INCIDENTS.

12.) FOOD PARCELS:

DONE AND THE COMMUNITY APRREATION.



WARD 14 COMMITEE REPORT: LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

04 JUNE 2025

The status quo is in the order of the day and nothing worthwhile to report on.

- 1. IDP meeting was held by Merafong but no projects for Merafong.
- 2. The Mayor tried to convince the community money and projects spend in Carletonville and Khutsong is to the advantage to the whole of Merafong including Fochville.
- 3. No answers on RandWater issues or the Eskom arrears.
- 4. Ward 14 is struggling with basic service that place an extreme limit on LED development. Big issues are water and electricity. Although Eskom is not calling it Loadshedding but load reduction the colder days have already started to impact the different wards.

By compiling and analyzing these various sources of data and information, it is my humble opinion that Fochville economics is in a downward spiral with no prospects for any sustainable new developments, LED project or any growth in the foreseeable future.

There is no business trust, no credibility in Merafong and its Council and the whole economic environment is detrimental for any economic growth.

Any attempt to contact council, the MM is fruitless endeavors.

Yours truly,

Jaco van der Merwe LED: Ward 14 portfolio

MONTHLY REPORT

PORTFOLIO: Intergraded Environmental Management

MONTH:

June 2025

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO:

Heidi Hattingh

Still waiting for feedback from Merafong.

Rubbish dumped all over ward 14.

Still no trees on the sidewalks have been cut in Ward 14.

Still no feedback on the rubbish truck that is going to Kiaat 11 Fochville on weekends, that has been reported with photos.

Potholes that were reported still not been filled.

Signature:

Date:

04th of June 2025

MONTHLY REPORT - WARD 14

PORTFOLIO: Finance

MONTH: June 2024

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO: CWA NIEUWOUDT

Purpose

To submit the Annual Medium-Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework for the 2025/2026 to 2027/2028 financial period in terms of Section 24 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, as submitted to the section 80 committee to the ward committee for information and appropriate action. This report highlights the main areas of the budget. **Attached** is the Council item.

Background

Section 24 (2) of the MFMA dealing with the approval of annual budgets, inter alia, reads as follows:

An annual budget must-

- a) Must be approved before the start of the budget year;
- b) Is approved by the adoption by the Council of resolution referred to in section 17 (3) (a)(i); and
- Must be approved together with the adoption of resolutions as may be necessary
 - i. Imposing any municipal tax for the budget year;
 - ii. Setting any municipal tariffs for the budget year;
 - iii. Approving measurable performance objectives for revenue from each revenue source and for each vote in the budget;
 - iv. Approving any changes to the municipality's integrated development plan; and
 - v. Approving any changes to the municipality's budget related policies.

The Accounting Officer of the municipality must submit the approved annual budget to the National Treasury and the relevant provincial treasury.

According to the report, the Mayoral Imbizo on stakeholder and public participation have been concluded in the month of May 2025.

The report still makes reference to the second budget of 12 March 2025 according to the budget speech, which has since been amended with the final budget.

The macro-economic forecast pertaining to CPI Inflation for the 2025/2026 financial year **is 4.3%** and should be used as an indicator when setting tariff increases.

Under the heading "State of the Municipality", it is stated that the Municipality has consulted all relevant community members and stakeholders in preparation of the 2025/26 original budget.

It is further stated that:

the cashflow constraints of the municipality are affecting the ability to service obligations within 30 days as prescribed by the legislation, especially bulk suppliers, i.e. Rand Water and Eskom.

The Municipality's credit control is being implemented as the Municipal Systems Act urges the collection of all money due to them and to implement a credit control and debt collection policy.

The policy is consistent with rates and tariffs and comply with the MSA's provisions. Section 96 of the MSA specifically requires municipalities to adopt, maintain, and implement a credit control and debt collection policy to ensure revenue collection.

The above statement is clearly blatantly false based on the municipal finance reports.

It is further stated that in light of the Municipality being unable to meet it's payment obligations to Eskom, water boards and other creditors, it is imperative that the municipality must maximise revenue generating potential and collect what is due to it and concurrently, eliminate wasteful and non-core spending. Provision **of R25m** has been made in the 2025/26 budget for installation of Smart Meters, alongside a public procurement process currently in place to obtain proposals from the public to cover:

- Infrastructure financing for the acquisition and installation of water and electricity prepaid meters.
- Infrastructure financing development and expansion of bulk infrastructure for water, and electricity.
- Capital raising to service outstanding accounts with Rand Water and Eskom to ensure uninterrupted utility services.

Merafong City Local Municipality is under Section 139 of the MFMA and the Financial Recovery Plan was developed and approved by Council in June 2024.

The Municipality considered <u>some of the budgeting parameters as stipulated in</u> the approved Financial Recovery Plan to prepare the 2025/26 MTREF budget.

Discussion

Budget summary:

The operating revenue for 2025/2026 financial year is budgeted at **R2 861 416 985** (**R2.8 Billion**) which is an increase of 21.88% from the **R2 347 723 120** (**R2.3 Billion**) 2024/2025 adjusted budget.

The significant increase in the projected revenue for 2025/26 financial year is due to the following:

- Provision of the Municipal Debt Relief
- Installation of Smart electricity and water metres expected to reduce losses
- A portion relates to the inclusion of the basic charge in water services

Based on the 2024/2025 municipal financial reports, it is clear that that the increase in projected Revenue of 21.8% is unrealistic. The new tariff of **R65** Basic charge on Water forced upon the already struggling rate payers and the installation of SMART meters to the budgeted amount of R25M is mentioned to support the 21.8% increase.

No financial calculations or estimates are provided to substantiate these claims. If the basic water charge is calculated based on the number of accounts, then the additional income will be a mere R2 M, if a 100% collection rate is achieved. It is unrealistic to think that the SMART meters will yield the additional income.

The municipality anticipates collection rate of 75% in the 2025/26 financial year. This is totally unrealistic and not based on any calculations.

The budgeted **surplus of R140 874 999** is therefore totally unrealistic and projects budgeted to be funded from the surplus will not materialise.

The **expenditure** budget of **R 2 720 541 985** is therefore not realistic and will compromise service delivery.

It is clear for any layman that the budget is not credible. No mention is made on how the creditors pertaining to bulk water and electricity supply, amounting to

R 2 600 705 473.04 will be paid in addition to the normal functions of council.

Almost 30% of the budget is allocated for Debt impairment. If Bulk services purchases and Employee related costs, Inventory and Contracted services are added, it is clear that there are no funds for maintenance of infrastructure and service delivery availed in this budget. The Operational costs are a mere 2.4% of the budget.

To fund this budget, the only strategy of the municipality is to increase Rates and Taxes above the CPI index of 4.3% as indicated by Treasury.

The following average tariff increase per category are proposed:

Service Type	%
Property Rates	5%
Agriculture and PSI	3%
Mine Property Rates	4.4%
Water Services	14.30%
Refuse Removal	6%
Sewerage	9.5%
Electricity*	8%-11.14%
Sundry Tariffs	6%

The above increase must be viewed against the above inflation increases over the previous 3 financial years.

With the current cost of living and the trend that the collection rate in paying areas has decreased considerably over the last month, it is clear that these proposed increases are unaffordable. There is no indication on what measures are taken to grow the local economy and to create an enabling environment for job creation, which is a national priority. The proposed increases will lead to more job losses, especially in the small and medium enterprises.

The following is a list of Capital projects to be funded from Grants.

Some of the project descriptions are vague and does not indicate the location of the projects, e.g. Merafong water and sanitation maintenance

Merafong Roads and Stormwater maintenance.

There are no projects prioritized for the Fochville area. A concern is the wastage of money on the upgrading of the Wedela Rec club and the Kokosi stadium, which was done on several occasions in the past, just to be vandalized again due to poor facility management. This is a total waste of scarce resources.

The upgrade of the Du Preez Street electricity supply which was promised to be included in the budget, is yet again left out, despite a being identified by the community as a main priority. It should further be noted the upgrade of the main feeder will yield a return on investment seeing that it serves the paying customers and businesses in Fochville.

MERAFO	NG CITY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	
	CAPITAL PROJECTS 2025/26	
Project No.	Project Description	Budge 2025/2026
	MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT (MIG)	
P620	PMU Operational Expenses	4 541 100.00
P(New)	Merafong Solar Highmast Lights & Solar Streetlights (Khutsong Proper, Kokosi Ext 6)+C17:C19	2 047 850.00
P(New)	Khutsong Roads and Stormwater (Phase 8B)	12 000 000.00
P(new	Khutsong Roads and Stormwater (Phase 1)	1 500 000.00
P(new)	Khutsong Roads and Stormwater (Phase 1)	5 000 000.00
P770	Kokosi Roads and Stormwater phase 4	8 000 000.00
P(New)	Kokosi Roads and Stormwater phase 8b	4 000 000.00
P(New)	Khutsong North Water & Sewer Reticulation (Stage 4b)	12 700 000.00
P784	Merafong Water and Sanitation Maintenance	4 500 000.00
P(New)	Merafong Roads and StormWater Maintanance	6 033 050.00
P(New)	Carletonville Cemetry Road Phase 2	10 000 000.00
P(New)	Upgrading of Kokosi Stadium	2 000 000.00
P(New)	Upgrading of Wedela Recrecation Club	2 000 000.00
P(New)	Bulk supply line from Khutsong Reservoir	8 000 000.00
P(New)	Expansion of Carletonville Landfill Site	8 500 000.00
	TOTAL MIG ALLOCATION	90 822 000.00
	INTEGRATED NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAM (INEP)	
P(New)	Khutsong Electrification	10 000 000.00
P765	Plover Sub station	7 533 000.00
	TOTAL INEP	17 533 000.00
	WATER SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT (WSIG)	
P777	Foundation stabilization of addata reservoir	7 280 281.00
P773	Refurbishment of Khutsong WWTWs	9 000 000.00
	Refurbishment of Welverdiend WWTWs	3 996 718.00
and the control of th	TOTAL WSIG	20 276 999.00
	TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS	128 631 999.00
	OWN FUNDED PROJECTS	

	Smart Meters (Water and Electrical)	25 000 000.00
	Land Audit	1 500 000.00
	GIS implementation	3 800 000.00
	Re-Imagine Merafong Vision 2035 projects	1 500 000.00
TOTAL C	OWN FUNDED	31 800 000.00
GRAND	TOTAL	160 431 999.00

The budget is clearly not informed by the IDP and community inputs which prioritised the maintenance and upgrade of infrastructure and services such as roads, water and sanitation, electricity, waste management etc.

The budget is not credible, unfunded, unrealistic and not informed by the IDP strategic objectives and should therefore be rejected.

Recommendations

- 1. The report is submitted for discussion and further action.
- 2. That it be noted that the budget is not credible, unfunded, unrealistic and not informed by the IDP strategic objectives and should therefore be rejected.

SIGNATURE: Original Signed

CWA NIEUWOUDT

DATE:26/05/2025

MONTHLY REPORT - WARD 14

PORTFOLIO: Finance MONTH: June 2025

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO: CWA NIEUWOUDT

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to submit the **Revenue Management Report** for the month of April 2025 to the ward committee for information. This report seeks to provide the status on revenue management for the month of April 2025. The report gives details of collection, billing, and credit control and debt collection activities.

Background

In terms of the provisions of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act (Act 32 of 2000) as stipulated under, it lays the groundwork for credit control and debt collection policies. It emphasizes the importance of municipalities collecting all revenue owed to them.

The MFMA, further in of Section 62(f)(iii), mandates that municipalities must establish and enforce a credit control and debt collection through a council approved Policy. The Accounting Officer must submit financial reports to council on a monthly basis. The report informs council on the steps taken to collect revenue due to council in accordance with the Credit Control and Debt Collection policy.

Discussion

Attached is a copy of the SECTION 80 Revenue Management report ending 30 June 2025.

Billing and Collection

According to the section 80 report, the collection rate for April 2025 was 49,43% against a budgeted 60%. The Net debtors' days has also increased to 2 222 days. The gross debtors amounts to R 6,709,348,828

Table A3 of the report details the collection rate per areas of Merafong and the trend of single digit collection rates in some township areas continues, despite the so-called "rand for a rand" or Nngwe ka Nngwe incentive scheme initiated and proudly displayed on council website by the Executive Mayor.

It is noted that **Fochville** reflects a **52**% collection rate, which is alarming seeing that previous averages were almost 100%. **Kokosi** reflects a collection rate of **2**% and **Greenspark 1**%.

These figures are a clear indication of Merafong's dismal failure in credit control, despite the Financial Recovery Plan initiatives, which is clearly also a total failure.

Pay points

The cash collection at pay points has increased in the current financial year, which is a positive. It is noted that the Khutsong and Greenspark pay points are still closed due to renovations and no money has been collected at the said pay points.

The report does not indicate what the status of billing queries are and whether the reported billing figures are correct.

The challenges with the billing system were acknowledged in the previous reports but no cause or any corrective measures and time frames are mentioned, indicating that the section has no clear plan of action to instruct the service provider (CCG) to rectify such. It seems that management is relying on the service provider to identify and correct challenges with the system, which was supposed to have the necessary functionalities in the first place.

There can be no reliance on the billing figures quoted in the report if this matter is not resolved. Incorrect billing and monthly accounts are still continuing despite promises by the municipal manager that a detailed audit will be undertaken and the discrepancies will be corrected.

Meter Reading Performance

A total of 30 927 water meters and 5 854 electricity meters were issued to the meter readers for reading, of which 4 527 electricity meters were successfully read and 1 327 meters that could not be read. 22 111 water meters were successfully read and 8 816 meters could not be read.

This is a huge problem and apart from reporting it to the infrastructure department, no corrective measures are taken and followed up. This total neglect is one of the reasons why the municipality is in financial distress. No consequence management is taken against officials failing to do their daily tasks and execute their responsibilities appointed and paid for. No political oversight exists in this regard.

Pre-Paid Non-Purchases Analysis and TID Progress

It is indicated that **20 796 prepaid meters** out of a total population of 31573 pre-paid meters (65%) were non purchasing meters in the last 90 days. These meters are suspected to have been tampered with and a report of

such meters has been provided to the electrical department for further investigation.

This matter is well known for years and over years it has been reported to the electricity department, with no response. No action is taken by the administration or council to ensure that the relevant departments are capacitated, has a budget to replace faulty meters and offenders of the Bylaws are charged in accordance with the applicable legislation, this despite the establishment of a dedicated By-law enforcement section managed by a dedicated manager.

The detail of the non- purchasing meters per area, are indicated in table A5.

According to the report, no prepaid meters were rolled over or replaced with KRN 2 compliant meter in the month of April 2025. The total number of meters on KRN 2 remains at 21 447 out of the total meter population of 31 573 which represents 68%. A total of 10 126 meters remains on KRN 1 as still not rolled over.

This process is now far behind the deadline and yet another example of poor performance without any consequence management or political oversight. It is clear from the report that the worse paying townships are also lagging behind with the TID process, which was indicated to be used to address the bridged meters. There is no political will to address the theft of electricity and the non- payment culture in townships.

Disconnection Handover Analysis

A total of 743 demand notices were issued for the month of April 2025, demand notices were preceded by a total 1 266 SMS sent out to consumers informing them of their arrears account. 254 disconnections were carried out and 85 reconnections were done. The number of actions taken are very low if compared with the payment figures and the actions taken last year. It should be noted that **no disconnections** were done in **township areas**.

According to the October 2024 report, a total of 2 648 notices were issued for the month of October 2024 with a total value of R227,09 million of arrears. This was made up of notices for the purpose of hand over for debt collectors and for disconnection.

Credit control is supposed to be implemented in accordance with Council policy in **ALL** areas of Merafong and it is not understood how council can allow the discriminatory implementation of a council policy. The responsible department must be held accountable for the defiance of council policy. No actions were taken in Greenspark, Khutsong South, Khutsong and Kokosi and Wedela.

This is totally unacceptable and in contradiction with council policy as well as the Financial Recovery Plan which clearly states that credit control must be undertaken in all areas of Merafong. The councillors are clearly not fulfilling their oversight role.

Debtor Age analysis

The total Municipal debtors' book was R6.7 billion at the end of April 2025 and the debtor's book grew by 1% which represents an increase of R77,6 million to the debtors' book from the previous month's balance.

The situation is deteriorating on a monthly basis without any indication on strategies to address the situation. The Financial Recovery Plan unfortunately is not yielding results and is internally focussed rather than focussed on financial recovery.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- That cognizance be taken of the April 2025 Revenue Management Report and the concern that credit control is not done in all areas and wards of the municipality.
- 2. That cognizance be taken of the poor collection figures and that <u>no credit control</u> is implemented in the worse paying areas of Merafong City which is a clear indication of the selective implementation of council policies.
- 3. That cognizance be taken of the 20 796 non- purchasing pre-paid electricity meters and the back lock of 10 126 meters on the TID process and the concern that there is no plan of action to address this serious problem and no steps are taken to hold those responsible accountable.
- 4. That feedback be obtained from the councillor on what steps are been taken to address the poor performance.

SIGNATURE: Original Signed

CWA NIEUWOUDT DATE: 27 May 2025

MONTHLY REPORT - WARD 14

PORTFOLIO: Finance

MONTH: June 2024

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO: CWA NIEUWOUDT

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to submit a broad overview of the **April 2025** Section 71 of the MFMA report on the implementation of the Budget and the financial situation of the municipality.

In terms of Section 71(d) of the MFMA, the accounting officer of a municipality must by no later than 10 working days after the end of each month submit to the mayor of the municipality, and the relevant National and Provincial Treasury, a statement in the prescribed format on the state of the municipality's budget reflecting certain particulars for that month for the financial year up to the end of that month.

Discussion

The MFMA stipulates as follows regarding reporting monthly on a budget performance:

71. (1) The accounting officer of a municipality must by no later than 10 working days after the end of each

month submit to the mayor of the municipality and the relevant Provincial treasury a statement in the

prescribed format on the state of the municipality's budget reflecting the following particulars for that

month and for the financial year up to the end of that month:

- (a) actual revenue, per revenue source;
- (b) actual borrowings;
- (c) actual expenditure, per vote;
- (d) actual capital expenditure, per vote;
- (e) the amount of any allocations received;
- (f) actual expenditure on those allocations, excluding expenditure on— (i) its share of the local

government equitable share; and (ii) allocations exempted by the annual Division of Revenue Act from

compliance with this paragraph; and

- (g) when necessary, an explanation of-
 - (i) any material variances from the municipality's projected revenue by source, and from the

municipality's expenditure projections per vote;

- (ii) any material variances from the service delivery and budget implementation plan; and
- (iii) any remedial or corrective steps taken or to be taken to ensure that projected revenue and

expenditure remain within the municipality's approved budget.

The section 71 report is **attached** for members assessment and inputs to be provided by the ward councilor.

Summary

The following table is an extract from the report.

Operating Revenue by Source

Description	Adjusted Budget Amount	April Actual	YTD Revenue	%YTD Revenue
Total Operating Revenue	R2 347 723 120	R116 546 000	2 062 495 000	87.85%

The pro-rata % YTD is 87.85%. The Adjustment budget figure in table C1 of the report however is indicated as R 2 464 217 000 and **differs** from the figure indicated in the above table.

The original budget for the year was R2 754 357 according to table C1. The adjustment budget **decreased** to R2 347 723 120 from the original budget but according to the report, the revenue budget was **increased** due to higher property rates. This statement is therefore incorrect and should be clarified.

4.2 Operating Expenditure by Type

Operating Expenditure	Original Budget Amount	April Actual	YTD Expenditure	%YTD Expenditure
Total Operating Expenditure	R 2 336 443 120.00,	R169 345 000	1 793 276 000	76%

The pro-rata % YDT is 76%, therefore the expenditure reported is below the prorata budget estimate for the period, although it is exceeding the revenue for the period.

4.3 SALARIES

Description	Adjustment Budget	April Actual	YTD Expenditure	%YTD Expenditure
Employee Related Cost	436 350 069	34 576 000	365 165 000	83.6%

The salaries are still within the budget amounts.

STAFF OVERTIME Summary: Overtime Trading Services

Month	Projected	April Actual(M10)	Percentage
April 2024	R2 211 250.25	R 2 018 394.13	91.28%
It should be not	ed that this is the figure	for April only and not a	YTD figure which
is not included i	n the report.	tor ripin only and not a	TID ligare, Willer

DEBTORS COLLECTION

Consumer debtors have increased to R6 375 822 0000 due to continued non-payment CONSUMER DEBTORS

The above figure remains a serious concern seeing that the municipality has appointed service providers to assist in this regard. It is clear that the culture of non-payment continues unabated in Merafong and that service providers and the municipality fail to execute their mandate. The performance of service providers must be assessed by council and non-performance should be addressed. It is clear that the so-called incentive scheme to write off debt on a Rand for a Rand basis has dismally failed.

The collection rate is reported as 49 % for the month, against a budgeted figure of 60%, which is doubtful seeing that the billing challenges still remains and it is not possible to determine the actual payment figure if the billing system is compromised.

The challenge of selective credit control and the failure to address the bridged prepaid electricity meters and theft, as well has the abnormally high water and electricity losses. This matter will be discussed in more detail under the separate **credit control report.**

The collection figures per area is concerning seeing that Fochville has dropped to 52%.

CREDITORS AGE ANALYSIS

According to the report, Merafong Creditors as of 30 April 2025 amounted to

R2 665 062 000

Creditors not paid within 30 days as at 30 APRIL 2025:

Number	SUPPLIER NAME	DESCRIPTION/ NATURE OF SERVICE	TOTAL
1	ESKOM	ELECTRICITY BULK PURCHASES	R 1 273 345 233.17
2	RAND WATER	WATER BULK PURCHASES	R 1 327 360 239.87
		TOTAL	R 2 600 705 473.04

It is clear that the interventions indicated in the report in accordance with the Financial Recovery Plan have limited success, if any, and creditors are increasing on a monthly basis despite agreements with Eskom in terms of the debt relief program as reported. There are no clear plans on how to address this situation despite disruption of water supply, seriously impacting on the community.

GRANT EXPENDITURE PERFORMANCE

The expenditure on Conditional Capital grants is 61 % and unconditional grants 40%, which is clear indication of under-performance, risking the return of unspent grants as experienced in the previous financial year.

AUDIT FINDINGS

The Municipality received a Qualified audit opinion from Auditor General during the 2023/2024 financial year

Fruitless and wasteful expenditure

It is reported that **Fruitless and wasteful** expenditure of **R18 859 642.23** were incurred for the month of April 2025. This seems incorrect and is probably an accumulative figure.

The **Irregular expenditure** incurred during the month of April 2025 amounts to **R 118 996 114.77**, which is probably an accumulated figure.

A separate item will be submitted regarding the above.

It is clear from this report that the municipality is dysfunctional and that the interventions in terms of the Financial Recovery Plan has yielded limited or no success with regard to turning the financial situation around.

Recommendations

- 1. That the summary of the financial position of Council in accordance with the section 71 report of April 2025 be noted with concern.
- 2. That the ward committee be provided with the credit control plan and dates when the program of correction of bridged meters will commence in ward 14, to enable the ward committee to effectively communicate with the residents, in support of the program.
- 3. That it be noted that the implementation of the Financial Recovery Plan has not yielded positive financial results.
- 4. That written feedback be obtained from the ward councilor.

SIGNATURE: Original Signed

CWA NIEUWOUDT

DATE:26/05/2025

ITEM: IRREGULAR EXPENDITURE FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2024/2025 FINANCIAL YEAR

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the item is to inform Section 80 on Irregular Expenditure for the month of April 2024/2025 financial year, which may constitute Irregular Expenditure and to take appropriate steps to address this.

2. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

The strategic objective of this matter is under-sound financial management and viability.

3. RISK IMPLICATIONS

Non-compliance to Section 32 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (MFMA)

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Ensure compliance in terms of section 32 of the MFMA

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implication is stated as further detailed below.

DISCUSSION:

Section 32 of the MFMA determines the following:

1) Without limiting the liability in terms of the common law or other legislation-

Irregular Expenditure

- a) Any political office-bearer or official of a municipality who deliberately or negligently committed, made or authorized a fruitless and wasteful expenditure, is liable for that expenditure.
- 2) A municipality must recover unauthorized, irregular and fruitless and wasteful expenditure from the person liable for that expenditure unless the expenditure
 - a) In the case of unauthorized expenditure, is
 - i. Authorized in an adjustments budget; or
 - ii. Certified by the Municipal Council, after investigation that by a council committee, as irrecoverable and written off by the council; and
 - b) In the case of irregular or fruitless and wasteful expenditure, is after investigation by a council committee, certified as irrecoverable and written off by Council.

Irregular Expenditure

Irregular Expenditure means.

- Expenditure not in accordance with the requirement of the MFMA, MSA, the Public Office Bearers Act, the Supply Chain Management policy of the municipality or any By-Law giving effect to such policy
- Council take note that there was Irregular expenditure discovered for the month of April 2025.
- Irregular Expenditure for the month of April 2024/2025 amounts to R 6 362 470.48 which is caused by tenders identified as Irregular Expenditure in the 2023/2024 Financial Year.

Section 32 of the MFMA provides that the accounting officer of the Municipality must inform the Mayor, the MEC and the Auditor General in writing of any irregular and Fruitless and Wasteful expenditure incurred by the municipality. The accounting officer must also inform them if any person is responsible or under investigation for such expenditure and the steps that have been taken to rectify such expenditure.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a) That Section 80 note of identified Irregular Expenditure incurred in the month of April 2024/2025 financial period.
- b) That Section 80 take note of Irregular Expenditure reported on the month April 2024/2025 financial period amounting **R 6 362 470.48** submitted.
- c) That Section 80 refers to the identified Irregular Expenditure for the Financial Year 2024/2025 for the month of April amounting R 6 362 470.48to Council and MPAC for consideration and analysis in terms of Section 32 of the MFMA. See attached table below - Annexure "A"

						Matter to be Referred to Council and MPAC for Consideration	Matter to be Referred to Council and MPAC for Consideration	Matter to be Referred to Council and MPAC for consideration
					General comments	Matte Refe Coun MF Consid	Matte Refe Coun MF Consid	Matte Refer Coun MF consid
					OM	None	None	anoM
					۵	anoM	anoM	None
					TR	anoM	None	None
					၁၁	anoM	anoM	Mone
			tus		۵	None	anoM	anoM
			Status		5	anoM	anoM	anoM
				nre	Type of Prohibited Expendit	Irregular	Irregular	Irregular
			Is	soiti	Person Liable (Official or Poli Office Bearer)	PMU	PMU	PMU Section
					Description of Incident	Irregular Award - AG	Irregular Award - AG	Irregular Award - AG
	025 Financial Year	ipality	Transaction details	Total Amount	April 2025	R619 689.44	R74 689.40	R4 852 720.20
	24/2(lunic	ınsad		Payment Number			
	ril 20	cal M	Tra		Date of Payment	04/04/2025		07/04/2025
	Register of Irregular Expenditure for April 2024/2025 Financial Year	Name of Municipality: Merafong City Local Municipality			Vendor name	Dikgabo Consulting Engineers	Pro-Plan Consulting	SRSQS Quantity Surveyors
EA	f Irre	Junic	190	oiffic	Oate Reported to Accounting C	01/02/2025	9202/90/10	01/02/2028
XUR	tero	of IN			Oate of discovery	01/02/5025	01/05/2025	01/02/2025
ANNEXURE A	Regis	Name	No	0		_	2	က

San Office and

	R815 371.44	Irregular Award - AG	Irregular PMU Secti Award - AG	Irregular		Matter to be Referred to Council and MPAC for consideration
9	R 6 362 470.48			-		

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ITEM: FRUITLESS AND WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025 FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2025

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to inform the Section 80 Committee of the Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure incurred during the month of April 2025 for 2024/2025 financial period, which may constitute Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure and to take appropriate steps to address this.

2. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

The strategic objective of this matter is under sound financial management and viability.

3. RISK IMPLICATIONS

Non-compliance to Section 32 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (MFMA)

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Ensure compliance in terms of section 32 of the MFMA

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified at this stage

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications are outlined in the Fruitless Register detailed below.

DISCUSSION:

Section 32 of the MFMA determines the following:

- 1) Without limiting the liability in terms of the common law or other legislation-Fruitless Expenditure
 - Any political office-bearer or official of a municipality who deliberately or negligently committed, made or authorized a fruitless and wasteful expenditure, is liable for that expenditure.
- 2) A municipality must recover unauthorized, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure from the person liable for that expenditure unless the expenditure
 - a) In the case of irregular or fruitless and wasteful expenditure, after investigation by a council committee, certified as irrecoverable and written off by Council.

Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure

- Means expenditure that was made in vain and would have been avoided had reasonable care been exercised.
- Fruitless Expenditure for the month April 2025 of 2024/2025 financial period amounts to R 18 859 642.23 which is caused by the interest charged on outstanding balance on Eskom Holding and Rand water accounts.

Section 32 of the MFMA provides that the accounting officer of the Municipality must inform the Mayor, the MEC and the Auditor General in writing of any irregular and Fruitless and Wasteful expenditure incurred by the municipality. The accounting officer must also inform them if any person is responsible or under investigation for such expenditure and the steps that have been taken to rectify such expenditure.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a) That Section 80 Committee take note of identified Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure incurred in the month of April 2025 of 2024/2025 financial period.
- b) That Section 80 Committee take note of Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure reported on the month of April 2025 of 2024/2025 financial period amounting R 18 859 642.23 submitted.
- c) That Section 80 Committee refers the identified Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure for the Financial Year 2024/2025 for the month of April 2025 amounting R 18 859 642.23 to Council and MPAC for consideration and analysis in terms of Section 32 of the MFMA. See attached table below - Annexure "A"

ANNEXIBEA

Register of Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure 2024/2025

Name of Municipality: Merafong City Local Municipality

ટ	ate ery					Transaction details		Person Liable (Official or	Type of Prohibited				Status	s	
	eco <i>n</i>	uno		Sta		Total Amount 30	Description of Incident	Polnical Office Bearer)	Expenditure						
	ibìo	oste Respondents	1obneV eman	Date (e)ovnl met	mye9 muM	April 2025				<u>옵</u> 5	8	뽄	\$	WO Ger	General comments
1	20250505	20250505 20250506 Rand water	Rand water	20250502	Interest not	1 224 250.46	1 224 250.46 Interest on account-514 HOD Infrastructure and Fruitless and Wasteful	HOD Infrastructure and	Fruitless and Wasteful					W	Matter to be refered to
					paid		Carletonville	HOD Finance						<u>8</u>	Council and MPAC for
														8	consideration
2	20250505	20250505 20250506 Rand water	Rand water	20250502	Interest not	1 338 783.36	.36 Interest on account-521 HOD Infrastructure and Fruitless and Wasteful	HOD Infrastructure and	Fruitless and Wasteful					M	Matter to be refered to
					paid		Fochville	HOD Finance			-			<u>ප</u>	Council and MPAC for
\exists														8	consideration
~	20250505	20250505 20250506 Rand water	Rand water	20250502	Interest not	1 929 714.56	.56 Interest on account-538 HOD Infrastructure and Fruitless and Wasteful	HOD Infrastructure and	Fruitless and Wasteful	~				M	Matter to be refered to
					paid		Khutsong	HOD Finance						<u>ප</u>	Council and MPAC for
\neg														8	consideration
4	20250505	20250506	20250505 20250506 Rand water	20250502	Interest not	1 135 682.34	.34 Interest on account-566 HOD Infrastructure and Fruitless and Wasteful	HOD Infrastructure and	Fruitless and Wasteful					Ma	Matter to be refered to
			= ,		paid		Wedela	HOD Finance		-	-			<u>ප</u>	Council and MPAC for
\exists														8	consideration
2	20250505	20250505 20250506 Rand water	Rand water	20250502	Interest not	328 146.39	328 146.39 Interest on account-326 HOD Infrastructure and Fruitless and Wasteful	HOD Infrastructure and	Fruitless and Wasteful					Ma	Matter to be refered to
					paid		GFI Mining SA	HOD Finance						<u>ප</u>	Council and MPAC for
														8	consideration
9	20250505	20250505 20250506 Rand water	Rand water	20250502	Interest not	15.00	.00 Intersest on account-327 HOD Infrastructure and Fruitless and Wasteful	HOD Infrastructure and	Fruitless and Wasteful					Ma	Matter to be refered to
					paid		Blyvooruitzicht	HOD Finance						<u>ප</u>	Council and MPAC for
	1.4													8	consideration

				00000000	_	-		_	-
		Finance	7554244094		paid				
	D Fruitless and Wasteful	account-HOD Energy and HOD Fruitless and Wasteful	_	24.2	Interest not	20250430	20250505 20250506 Eskom Holdings	20250505 202	16
consideration			Б						
Council and MPAC for		Khutsong Finance	23		paid			Policia de Po	
Matter to be refered to	D Fruitless and Wasteful	account- HOD Energy and HOD Fruitless and Wasteful	_	346.0	Interest not	20250430	20250403 20250404 Eskom Holdings	20250403 202	15
		Finance	6149998130		May 2025				
	D Fruitless and Wasteful	account- HOD Energy and HOD Fruitless and Wasteful	_	51.5	Paid 09	20250424	20250505 20250506 Eskom Holdings	20250505 202	14
consideration									
Council and MPAC for		Finance	8475741404		May 2025				
Matter to be refered to	D Fruitless and Wasteful	account-HOD Energy and HOD Fruitless and Wasteful	236.03 Interest on acc	236.0	Paid 09	20250411	20250505 20250506 Eskom Holdings	20250505 203	5
consideration									
Council and MPAC for		le Finance	6230165898 Fochville		paid				
Matter to be refered to	D Fruitless and Wasteful	account- HOD Energy and HOD Fruitless and Wasteful	44 Interest on acc	2 029 898.4	Interest not	20250502	20250505 20250506 Eskom Holdings	20250505 203	12
consideration									
Council and MPAC for		nville Finance	8739682797 Carletonville Finance		paid		8		
Matter to be refered to	D Fruitless and Wasteful	account-HOD Energy and HOD Fruitless and Wasteful	Ю	4 431 343.10 Interest	Interest not		20250403 20250404 Eskom Holdings	20250403 20;	#
consideration									
Council and MPAC for		HOD Finance	Deelkraal	-	paid				
Matter to be refered to	Id Fruitless and Wasteful	116 886.45 Interest on account-374 HOD Infrastructure and Fruitless and Wasteful	5 Interest on accour	116 886.4	Interest not	20250502	20250505 20250506 Rand water	20250505 203	10
consideration									
Council and MPAC for		Elandsrand C/o Harmony HOD Finance	Elandsrand C/o Harr		paid				
Matter to be refered to	d Fruitless and Wasteful	account-372 HOD Infrastructure and Fruitless and Wasteful	uo	2 751 338.95 Interst	Interest not	20250502	20250505 20250506 Rand water	20250505 20	6
consideration									
Council and MPAC for		HOD Finance	Golden core	and the second	paid				
Matter to be refered to	nd Fruitless and Wasteful	2 733 800.52 Interest on account-362 HOD Infrastructure and Fruitless and Wasteful	2 Interest on accour	2 733 800.5	Interest not	20250502	20250505 20250506 Rand water	20250505 203	00
consideration									
Council and MPAC for		HOD Finance	Blyvooruitzicht		paid		bu ikaoanyi		
Matter to be refered to	Id Fruitless and Wasteful	.73 Intersest on account-328 HOD Infrastructure and Fruitless and Wasteful	3 Intersest on accour	839 124.7	Interest not	20250502	20250505 20250506 Rand water	20250505 20	7

Abbreviations:

UI: Irregular expenditure Under Investigation
DP: Disciplinary process initiated against responsible person
CC: Criminal charges laid with SAPS
Transferred to receivables for recovery
P: Paid or in process of paying in installments
WO: Written-off by council as irrecoverable

Prepared by: Leah Maki Acting Manager: Expenditure

Reviewed by: Reece Pillay
Manager: Financial Reporting

Authorised by: Palesa Wakhubela

Chief Financial Officer

MONTHLY REPORT - WARD 14

PORTFOLIO: Finance

MONTH: June 2024

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO: CWA NIEUWOUDT

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to inform the ward committee on Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure and Irregular Expenditure for the month of April 2024/2025 financial year, which may constitute Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure and Irregular Expenditure and to take appropriate steps to address this. **Attached** are the two reports tabled at the section 80 committee for submission to council.

Discussion

Section 32 of the MFMA determines the following:

1) Without limiting the liability in terms of the common law or other legislation-

Fruitless Expenditure

- a) Any political office-bearer or official of a municipality who deliberately or negligently committed, made or authorized a fruitless and wasteful expenditure, is liable for that expenditure.
- 2) A municipality must recover unauthorized, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure from the person liable for that expenditure unless the expenditure
 - a) In the case of irregular or fruitless and wasteful expenditure, after investigation by a council committee, certified as irrecoverable and written off by Council.
- 1) A municipality must recover unauthorized, irregular and fruitless and wasteful expenditure from the person liable for that expenditure unless the expenditure
 - a) In the case of unauthorized expenditure, is
 - i. Authorized in an adjustments budget; or
 - ii. Certified by the Municipal Council, after investigation that by a council committee, as irrecoverable and written off by the council; and
 - b) In the case of irregular or fruitless and wasteful expenditure, is after investigation by a council committee, certified as irrecoverable and written off by Council.

Irregular Expenditure

Irregular Expenditure means.

- 1. Expenditure not in accordance with the requirement of the MFMA, MSA, the Public Office Bearers Act, the Supply Chain Management policy of the municipality or any By-Law giving effect to such policy.
- 2) A municipality must recover unauthorized, irregular and fruitless and wasteful expenditure from the person liable for that expenditure unless the expenditure
 - c) In the case of unauthorized expenditure, is
 - iii. Authorized in an adjustments budget; or
 - iv. Certified by the Municipal Council, after investigation that by a council committee, as irrecoverable and written off by the council; and
 - d) In the case of irregular or fruitless and wasteful expenditure, is after investigation by a council committee, certified as irrecoverable and written off by Council.

Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure.

In terms of the report submitted to the section 80 committee, the municipality
has incurred *Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure* for the month April 2025 of
2024/2025 financial period amounting to R 18 859 642.23 which is caused by
the interest charged on outstanding balance on Eskom Holding and Rand
water accounts.

This is a serious concern seeing that in terms of the Eskom debt relief program, interest on debt would have been written off if the municipality honored its obligations. The item is silent on the breakdown of the interest amounts and it seems that the Eskom arrangement has not have a positive impact.

In the case of Rand Water, it was reported that an agreement has been reached to pay Rand Water direct from a portion of the Equitable share, to the amount of R45M per quarter. Despite these "agreements", interest is still incurred and water reductions implemented by Rand Water. It would have been expected that the report should have informed council on this matter.

Irregular Expenditure

• In terms of the report *Irregular Expenditure* for the month of April 2024/2025 amounts to **R 6 362 470.48** which is caused by tenders identified as *Irregular Expenditure* in the 2023/2024 Financial Year.

It is recommended in the report that Section 80 refers the report on the identified Irregular Expenditure for the Financial Year 2024/2025 for the month of April amounting **R 6 362 470.48** to Council and MPAC for consideration and analysis in terms of Section 32 of the MFMA.

It is trusted that the process be followed correctly and that any political officebearer or official of a municipality who deliberately or negligently committed, made or authorized a fruitless and wasteful expenditure or Irregular expenditure, be held liable for that expenditure.

Recommendations

- **1.**That the report on Fruitless, Wasteful and Irregular Expenditure be noted and that Council ensures that the correct procedures be followed to ensure accountability.
- 2. That the committee be kept informed on the progress of the matter.

SIGNATURE: Original Signed

CWA NIEUWOUDT

DATE:26/05/2025

WARD 14 – FOCHVILLE MONTHLY HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Submitted by: Abraham Brits

Date: 3 June 2025

Subject: Ongoing Lack of Feedback on Monthly Reports and Ward Committee Submissions

1. Introduction

This report serves to document a matter of growing concern. While I remain committed to my role as facilitator of grassroots democracy, I am increasingly dismayed by the consistent absence of feedback, acknowledgment, or follow-up from the Speaker's Office and other relevant municipal structures regarding the reports I file each month.

2. The Purpose of Ward Councillors and Committees - A Reminder

According to the **Municipal Structures Act** and the **Municipal Systems Act**, ward councillors and ward committees play a vital role in promoting participatory governance. Our duties include:

- Serving as a bridge between the municipality and the community.
- Reporting service delivery issues and advocating for solutions.
- Promoting community involvement in development planning.
- Providing oversight on municipal programmes at the ward level.

These responsibilities are not just administrative obligations—they are constitutional mechanisms designed to ensure the people of South Africa are active participants in shaping their communities.

3. The Value of Our Work and the Need for Feedback

Each month, as ward committee members, we compile detailed reports informed by the lived experiences, concerns, and observations of residents. These are not simply documents; they represent the voices of ordinary citizens who believe in this democratic system and trust us to communicate their challenges through the proper channels.

We submit our reports in good faith, hoping they will be reviewed, discussed, and escalated to the relevant departments. Unfortunately, we have not received any meaningful responses, updates, or even acknowledgments. This silence creates frustration—not only among committee members who volunteer their time—but also among residents who begin to feel that their voices are being ignored.

We understand that municipal administration faces significant pressures and limited resources. However, even a brief note of acknowledgment or a progress update on raised issues would help us to maintain trust in the system and to manage expectations within our community more effectively.

4. Reinforcing the Intent of Participatory Democracy

The White Paper on Local Government (1998) and the IDP regulatory framework emphasise the importance of community involvement and the responsiveness of municipal structures. When feedback loops break down, we risk disempowering the very communities we are meant to serve and undermining the democratic values upon which local government is built.

I am not placing blame. Rather, I seek to re-engage the intended process where municipal officials and elected representatives collaborate with local ward structures to co-create solutions and improve lives.

5. A Humble Request

I respectfully request the following:

- That all future ward reports be acknowledged upon receipt.
- That updates be shared regarding the status or outcomes of the issues we raise.
- That a platform for quarterly engagements be considered, where representatives from the Speaker's Office and municipal departments provide feedback on ward-level reports and IDP-linked issues.

6. Conclusion

I remain committed to the success of Ward 14 and to the integrity of participatory democracy. It is my sincere hope that this report will be received in the spirit in which it is written—one of constructive concern and a desire to improve communication and cooperation between ward structures and the municipality.

I thank the Speaker's Office for its continued service, and I look forward to a renewed and strengthened working relationship.

Yours in service, **Abraham Brits**Health and Safety Representative

Ward 14 – Fochville

Monthly Report – June 2025 Portfolio – Corporate Services Member – Nadine Bouwer

- Health & Safety still a concern
- Rand Water No further feedback was received re the
 possible further water restrictions as a result of the account
 in arrears(Ongoing issues water on/off) Water restrictions
 ongoing, residents very frustrated by this at the moment and
 Merafong is not forthcoming even at IDP meeting held
- Residents very anxious re financial/billing system that is still not operational Reports that it would have/should have been up and running at the end of March 2024 No other feedback re this some are receiving correct accounts, some are not, getting the errors adjusted accordingly is very difficult for residents and time consuming Up and running however the accounts are still not correct, residents struggling to get Merafong to assist in correcting incorrect amounts ie over charging on water etc, some residents are being switched off due to these incorrect errors
- Library No feedback re maintenance/upgrades/books

- We are also requesting a list of all the positions filled in the last 12 months please (If this was done according the organogram, if it was approved accordingly in line with financial recovery plan)
- Swimming Pool Needs resources & staff need appropriate training
- Library Needs resources
- Electricity Very concerned, winter approaching Du Preez line is going to be a problem – is a problem currently with dips occurring more frequently
- Is there any feedback re mobile Home Affairs, there was a visit at Kokosi, however people waited from 7 till 4 then told to go home as they are not paid overtime, not everyone could wait in the hall, so they had to brave the heat, we need to try and get a few more visits and more spread across Fochville so all wards can be assisted, is this possible?
- Fifth Street Residents concerned re children crossing there as cars do not stop
- It has also been noted that the telephones at Merafong offices are not working just rings – Still of at times and Fochville offices are mostly offline, residents are very frustrated having to go to Carletonville

