

Portfolio Reports

Summary of concerns raised by Ward 14 Ward Committee:

Background:

The undersigned was mandated by the ward committee to raise the issue of **no feedback** on ward committee reports and important issues raised by the ward committee during monthly meetings, which ultimately culminates in no service delivery improvement in the ward over the past three and a half years.

The matter was raised during the meeting with the Municipal Manager on 3 September 2025 regarding the **City Improvement District** discussions, which has the object of improved service delivery through a Public Private Partnership. During the meeting the Municipal Manager instructed the Communications Manager in the Office of the Executive Mayor to follow up on monthly ward reports with the office of the Speaker.

Discussion:

Since the establishment of the ward committee in the current administration (2022), the ward committee reports have been submitted monthly by the deadline to the Speaker's office. The ward submissions comprised of the minutes of each monthly meeting as well as the reports from the respective portfolios.

In terms of the legislated functions of a ward committee, issues identified in the ward should be reported to the ward councillor for reporting to Council through the relevant structures, being the Speaker's office, to obtain relevant responses for report back to the ward committee and the community it represents.

Since its establishment in 2022, the ward councillor of ward 14 was unable to obtain any feedback on matters reported in ward committee meetings as submitted to the Speaker's office. This matter was followed up by the ward councillor on a regular basis and directly through email communication, without any response.

On 4 December 2023, subsequent to several follow- ups and complaints, the then Chief of Staff was delegated to attend a ward committee meeting to discuss the matter. Despite promises that feedback will be given in future, no response was ever received. Subsequently the official was appointed in another position and the matter died without resolving.

This situation renders the ward committee and ward councillor useless and a total waste of time and money, seeing that members attend monthly meetings and receive a monthly stipend without resolving any matters. Ward committee meetings can be seen as just another talk shop and reports submitted to the Speaker as just another malicious compliance exercise. What makes it worse is that the secretariate in the Speaker's office, on a monthly basis threatens wards that if reports are not submitted by the deadline, the monthly stipend will be forfeited, this despite the fact that their office never responds to matters.

Summary of issues raised:

The ward 14 ward committee comprises of 10 portfolios where each member is responsible for his/her portfolio and must submit issues identified in the ward through the month, to the ward councillor for reporting and resolving.

The following is a short summary of the main issues raised in monthly reports, on which no feedback has been received from Council through the ward councillor.

Portfolios

Integrated Environmental Management:

Environmental Pollution through regular sewer blockages, Illegal dumping of waste, exacerbated by uncontrolled recycling. This matter was also discussed with the responsible director at the time and despite promises, nothing happened.

Overgrown open spaces are a further contributing factor and a fire hazard during winter months, contributing to air pollution.

Water, Sanitation, Electricity, GAS and PMU:

Access to water and electricity is a serious challenge with regular outages and Interruption of supply. No infrastructure maintenance and no funded ward-based maintenance plans in the approved SDBIP.

Human Settlement, Land Development and Spatial Planning:

Incomplete buildings, Illegal building activities, lack of building and Spatial Planning control. A detailed list has been submitted to the office of the Municipal Manager as discussed during the meeting with the MM on 3 September. This list has been submitted in monthly ward reports.

Road, Storm water and Public Works:

No road maintenance, pot holes, blocked stormwater drains, no side walk maintenance. No infrastructure maintenance and no funded ward-based maintenance plans in the approved SDBIP.

Corporate Support Services:

Poor library access and services, lack of maintenance of facilities, insufficient staff capacity.

Local Economic Development:

Poor infrastructure and services to enhance LED, Tariff structure not conducive for growth and development of SMME'S.

Public Safety:

Poor traffic visibility and control, lack of maintenance of road markings and signage. Lack of moving violations enforcement. Proposed cameras at Jakaranda 4 way – stop to deter skipping of stop street which is a regular occurrence.

Finance:

Budget not informed by IDP, Unfunded budget due to poor revenue collection in township areas, electricity and water theft through bridged meters and unmetered water, selective credit control in paying areas only, no funded maintenance plans. Serious billing discrepancies rendering financial reports inaccurate. No SDBIP reports on website to track budget implementation. Arrears on Electricity and Water bulk services (Eskom and Rand Water) amounts to **R 2 600 705 473.04, yet no strategy to address this in a sustainable manner.** This has a direct effect on the access to basic services.

Health and Social Development:

Lack of council support for Health and Social Development.

Sport, Recreation Arts and Culture

Vandalization of facilities, no maintenance and facility management at of Gert van Rensburg sport complex and Civic Centre complex.

Integrated Development Planning

This is a cross- cutting function and is not dealt with by a specific portfolio.

- Written and verbal submissions made on the 2022/23 (5-Year) IDP, following the elections in November 2021, and the subsequent annual reviews.
- Needs of the ward mainly relate to maintenance of Infrastructure and poor service delivery such as:
- Upgrading of electricity network, street lights and bulk supply, Maintenance of roads and stormwater, water and sewer network, improved waste management and waste transfer station, maintenance of parks and open areas, maintenance of Gert var Rensburg Stadium and Civic Centre
- Budget must be aligned with needs of the ward through a funded Service Delivery Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) and funded maintenance Plans to enable monitoring and oversight.
- Budget must be credible and funded through accurate billing and revenue collection throughout the municipality.
- No projects prioritized for the ward despite being the ward with the higher payment area.
- Oversight structures of council are not functioning, therefore no consequence management despite Disclaimer and Qualified audit opinions for consecutive years of the current administration.
- No tangible financial improvement with implementation of Financial Recovery Plan as approved by National Treasury due to council being under administration in terms of Section 139 of the Constitution.

Conclusion

Despite the effective functioning of the ward committee and efforts made to assist council through the ward councilor, no feedback or support can however be reported, which is the main reason why local government is failing and legislative processes are only used as a tick box for malicious compliance.

It is suggested that the functioning of ward committees be prioritized to ensure improved service delivery and regular feedback to communities where serious challenges are experienced by Council.

CWA NIEUWOUDT

18/09/2025

MONTHLY REPORT

PORTFOLIO: Human settlement and Land Development

MONTH: November 2025

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO: Francois Hattingh

List of half-finished houses:

An email was sent to the MM concerning all unfinished and partially constructed houses. A response was received but did not show accurate information, other properties were added to the list as well.

Signature:



Date:

04th of November 2025

Building control

2 messages

Albie Nieuwoudt <alnieu@gmail.com>
To: dmabuza@merafong.gov.za
Cc: Heidi hattingh <fahhattingh@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 15, 2025 at 4:46 PM

Good day MM,

Attached is a report from the ward committee member responsible for Human settlement and Land Development, as discussed during our meeting. The secretary of the ward committee is copied in this mail.

The list is not a complete list but is a clear indication of the lack of building control and land use management in ward 14 and the greater Fochville.

We are aware of the capacity constraints but the current situation is not in the best interest of the council or the community. Complaints from the community fall on deaf ears and no action is taken or feedback given. The question arises on what the purpose of any inputs from the ward committee is? The ward councillor is also unable to obtain any feedback from the department.

It is suggested that the matter be investigated to place a permanent building control officer in the Fochville/Greenspark and Kokosi area to ensure compliance with legislation and services to the community. The closing of the Fochville office was necessitated at the time due to staff vacancies as a temporary measure which has now become permanent. A number of new positions have since been created by the municipality and vacancies filled, but the situation in building control remains desperate.

We trust that this matter will receive the attention it deserves in the interest of service delivery and city improvement and financial sustainability.

Thank you for your intervention.

Regards

--
Albie Nieuwoudt

2 attachments

 **Building control list.docx**
33K

 **Photos of Houses.pdf**
763K

Heidi hattingh <fahhattingh@gmail.com>
To: Albie Nieuwoudt <alnieu@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 15, 2025 at 4:49 PM

Thank you I have received it.

[Quoted text hidden]



1 Saycamore/
Guesthouse #1



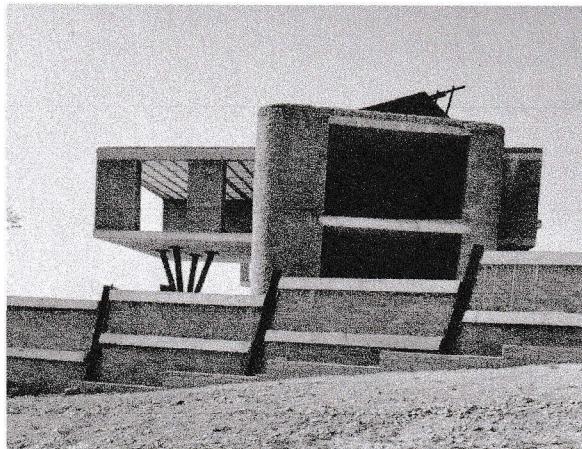
110 Olienhout #28



93 Olienhout #4



Wattel next nr 27 #5



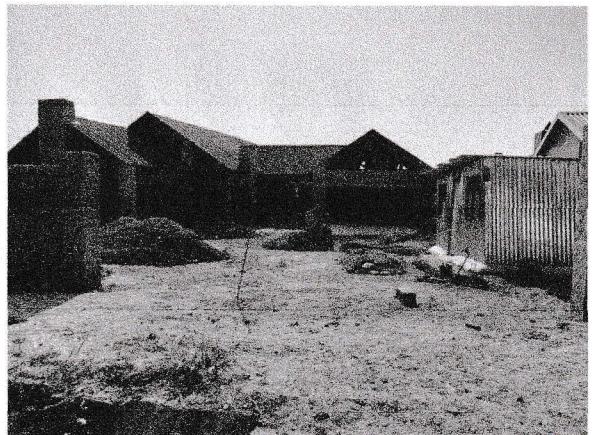
Froneman across 8c #18



41 Olienhout next to civic
centre #23



2 Stinkhout #9



Keurboom & Denne Ave
#30



9 Keurboom #13



Bloekom & Tambotie #10



Coner Bloekom &
Tambotie #29



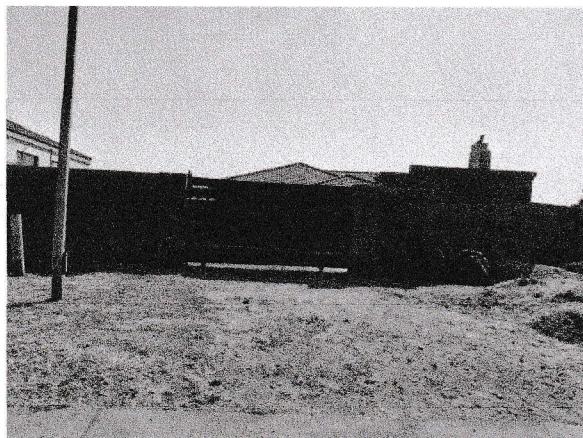
Denneweg #3



Denne #3



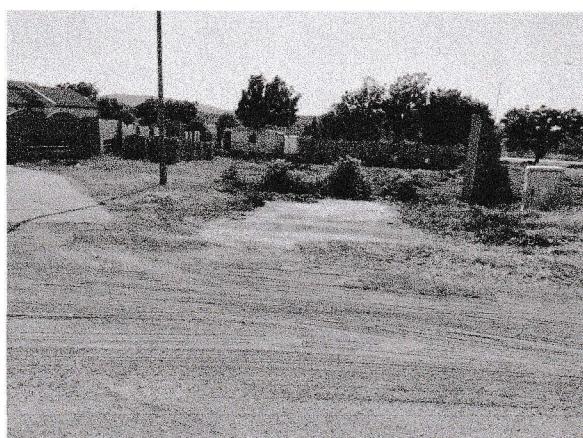
Denne #3



21 Disa #12



Elem next to 9



Keurboom 65 #25



42 Keurboom #8

PORTFOLIO: Human settlement and Land Development

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO: Francois Hattingh\

Several obvious and perceived transgressions of the municipal planning and building regulations in ward 14 have been reported by the ward committee over the past three years without any response. The reports were regularly followed up and the ward councillor and member responsible for Human Settlement and Land Development has also physically handed in the report at the planning section, still without any response. The request was that the properties identified in the list be inspected to verify their compliance and to ensure rectification where required.

It is our submission that there is a complete lack of compliance and law enforcement pertaining to land development, building control and land use management in the municipality and the ward specifically.

The matters identified can be divided in the following categories: Some transgressions are across all categories.

The table below is a summary of matters to be investigated for ease of reference.

Address	Categories: To be investigated as marked with X						
	New development	New house/ Building plans	Incomplete unoccupied houses	Incomplete Occupied houses	Building Extensions/Building plans?	Services connection/ Occupation Certificate	Land-use compliance
1.Cnr Losberg /Jacaranda Ave, East of Losberg	New densification development						X
2.Town entrance R500/ Losberg Ave	New development						X
3. 18,20,24 Denneweg				X	X		
4. 93 Olienhout					X		
5 77 Olienhout					X		
6. 27 Wattel street		X					
7. 42 Keurboom					X	X	X
8.Cnr Keurboom/ 2 Stinkhout Ave			X				
9.Opposite 10 Tamboti street		X					
10. 11 Kiaat street					X		
11. 12 Dahlia Street						X	
12. 09 Keurboom		X	X				
13. 19 Disa Ave		X					
14. 21 Disa laan		X		X			
15. Malva ave Villa Yvonne Complex		X	X				
16. Opposite Froneman		X					

8C							
17. Elmweg next to nr 9			X				
18. Annemoon 45					X		
19. 41 Olienhou street next to Civic Centre				X	X	X	
20. Cnr Jakaranda/Perkorrel		X					
21. 65 Keurboom		X					
22. 1 Sycamore				X	X		X
23. 110 Olienhou	Vlei huis					X	
24. Cnr Bloekom/Tambotie Streets		X	X				
25. Keurboom/Denne Ave, in Keurboom Ave		X	X				
26. 21 Keurboom		X					X

Clarification of table (In number sequence)

1. The new development involves 13 new free standing single housing Units as advertised by Remax. Has planning approval been obtained and has the impact on already stressed services such as water and electricity been taken into account? Ward 14 is already experiencing water pressure control and outages and electricity load control during peak hours. Will bulk services capacity be upgraded and development contributions be payable by the developer?
2. The new development is currently under construction on the property at the entrance of Fochville, Cnr of R500/Losberg Ave. This land use to be farmland. Has planning approval been obtained as well as approval of the site development plan and building plans? What type of development is taking place at the entrance of Fochville. Is this development in line with council Spatial Development Framework? Please provide details of the status of the planning approvals. Will the municipality provide water, sewer and electricity services, seeing that this property is not in an approved township?
3. Have building plans been approved for these extensions to existing dwellings? A new flat unit has been created in the existing double garage.
4. The extension to the existing dwelling is a large double story extension, doubling the size of the original mining house. Are there approved building plans and has the property been revalued in the supplementary valuation roll?
5. Complete occupied house in **5 above** Olienhou 77. Has building plans been approved and an occupation certificate been issued.
6. 27 Wattel in **6 above**- Has building plans been approved. There are no construction signs indicating the builder's details, NHBRC registration number or relevant required information at the site. This is a general phenomenon on most construction sites where new dwellings or extensions are being undertaken.

See photo# 5.

7. The extension of a mining house at 42 Keurboom to a double story **house**, constructed over the building lines, transgressing into the adjacent property, without approved building plans, has been occupied for some years. Correspondence with the municipality over years has yielded no results. Have building plans been submitted and how will the municipality deal with the transgression of the building line? Has an occupation certificate been issued and new services connections and meter readings been done? Has the property valuation been adjusted, as the property are clearly worth millions, compared to the original valuation of a mine house. Why has the municipality not enforced previous non-compliance statutory notices and obtained a court order to demolish the illegal transgression of the building line or rectification through consolidation and sub-division? Are some property owners above the law?
8. The incomplete structure on the corner of Keurboom/Stinkhout Ave. has been reported over years. The structure is harbouring criminal elements and is an eye saw in the community. It is used by illegal waste recyclers, also reported on numerous occasions, to sort and dump waste. Homeless people are staying on the property without any ablutions resulting in pollution with human excrements. The property is overgrown, posing a fire and environmental risk. The owner of the property has abandoned the property. It is suggested that the municipality take the necessary legal steps to demolish the structure. The municipality is clearly failing in its legislated duties to the detriment of the community.
9. Opposite 11 Tambotie Street. Has building plans been approved. There are no construction signs indicating the builder's details, NHBRC registration number or relevant required information at the site. This is a general phenomenon on most construction sites where new dwellings or extensions are being undertaken.
10. 11 Kiaat Street. Has building plans been approved. There are no construction signs indicating the builder's details, NHBRC registration number or relevant required information at the site. This is a general phenomenon on most construction sites where new dwellings or extensions are being undertaken.
11. 12 Dahlia. . Has building plans been approved. and services connections installed at the separate housing units, rented out. Have the correct land use rights been obtained?
12. 9 Keurboom. Incomplete house with no construction activities for many years. Have building plans been approved. Has the owner been notified of transgression of building regulations pertaining to not completing building within legislated time. The property is a unsightly nuisance and has a negative impact on the the neighbourhood.
13. 19 Disa. Has building plans been approved.
14. 21 Disa Ave. This house is incomplete and occupied. Have building plans been approved and occupation certificate been issued. Has services connections been done levied accordingly. House next to reservoir

- 15.** Malva Ave, Villa Yvonne complex inside- There is an incomplete structure inside the development with no construction activities for some time. Has the owner been notified of non- compliance to building regulations and to either complete or demolish the unsightly structure.
- 16.** Opposite Froneman 8C- Huge incomplete structure. Has building plans been approved and is the structure constructed in accordance with approved plans? See photo #18
- 17.** Elm Street, next to number 9. The incomplete structure has been standing for years without any construction activities. Why did the municipality not enforce the provisions of the National Building Regulations in this regard. When will the matter receive attention.
- 18.** 45 Anemoon- Building extensions and occupied. Have building plans been approved and occupation certificate issued?
- 19.** The incomplete double story structure at 41 Olienhou Ave, North of the Civic centre has been occupied for years. Has building plans been approved and is the structure constructed in accordance with approved plans? How can an incomplete structure be occupied without an occupation certificate? How can services be provided without an occupation certificate? Has municipal account been opened and levied? These incomplete structures have a serious negative impact on the property values of the area and is clearly not safe for human occupation.
- 20.** The complete dwelling house on the corner of Jakaranda /Peperkorrel Ave has been occupied for years. Has building plans been approved and is the structure constructed in accordance with approved plans? Has an occupation certificate been issued and services connected accordingly.
- 21.** 65 Keurboom- This is a new development. Has building plans been approved? There are no construction signs indicating the builder's details, NHBRC registration number or relevant required information at the site. This is a general phenomenon on most construction sites where new dwellings or extensions are being undertaken.
- 22.** The property at 1 Sycamore Ave has been transformed into a guest house. Has building plans been approved and the necessary planning approval been obtained. The house is occupied and clearly cannot be in possession of an occupation certificate. It is rumoured that the property belongs to a Malawian Citizen. Who is the registered owner of the property?
- 23.** 110 Olienhou, last house at bottom of street on left hand side, number on house might be incorrect. Have building plans been approved and house completed accordingly? Has an occupation certificate been issued and services connections been done. The construction is questionable construction and rumour has it that the Malawian occupant has illegal services connections.
- 24.** There is a new dwelling been constructed on the corner of Bloekom/Tambotie Streets. Has building plans been approved. There are no construction signs indicating the builder's details, NHBRC registration number or relevant required information at the site. The house is already occupied and clearly incomplete. Has an occupation certificate been issued? If not, how can the

structure been occupied with services connected? This is a general phenomenon on most construction sites where new dwellings or extensions are being undertaken.

- 25.** There is a new dwelling been constructed on the corner of Keurboom /Denne Ave., in Keurboom Ave. Has building plans been approved. There are no construction signs indicating the builder's details, NHBRC registration number or relevant required information at the site. This is a general phenomenon on most construction sites where new dwellings or extensions are being undertaken.
- 26.** Keurboom, completed dwelling used for business purposes. Has the correct land use rights been obtained?

WARD 14

REPORT 2025/11/04

PORTFOLIO: WATER AND ELECTRICITY

The Merafong Municipality is facing a severe financial crisis, struggling to pay debts to essential service providers, Eskom and Rand Water. The municipality's inability to settle its accounts has resulted in significant disruptions to basic services, affecting residents and businesses in the area. The financial crisis is likely to deter investors, hinder economic growth and affect local businesses.

ELECTRICITY:

Merafong Municipality owes Eskom millions, prompting concerns about the power utility's financial sustainability. Despite efforts to negotiate a payment plan, the municipality's overdue debt continues.

2-3/10/2025 Power outage Olienhout – the breaker needs to be replaced. Correct size breaker not available. Temporary breaker was installed but was not sufficient to handle the full demand. Residents were asked to use electricity sparingly and limit usage to essential equipment only, as the temporary breaker may continue to trip under heavy load.

5-6/10/2025 Power outage Olienhout, Waterberry, Wattle

18/10/2025 Electrical outage – HT cable fault between Palm and Mimosa minisubs. 5 minisubs were off. Ring feed cable was connected

20/10/2025 Eskom control room asked for residents to reduce the load before it trip

WATER

The situation with Rand Water is dire, with Merafong owing a staggering amount. Rand water has been forced to reduce the water supply by 20% due to non payment. This debt has been accumulating over time.

2-8/10/2025

Water pressure in the reservoir was very low. As ward 14 is in a higher lying area we struggled with severe water shortages.

9/10/2025 Water problem was due to the supply line being closed for work on the line. No notice to the public.

17/10/2025 – Merafong municipality conducted emergency repairs on the E13 pipeline. Repairs didn't happen in the timeframe given which led to a longer period with no water

24-26/10/2025 reports of water shortages throughout ward 14

Water leak at Kiepersol 27. Ref: Cc6/22/10/2025/10 – fixed on 25th October

Rand water has constructed a new chamber and installed additional valves and separate meters on various supply lines. This is to help with water losses, leaks and outdated metering systems.

With the installation of zonal meters and pressure-reducing valves water can be manage more effectively. This can result in the implementation of controlled water-shedding.

Engela van der Merwe

Engela van der Merwe

Monthly Report for November

Portfolio: Road, Storm Water & Public Works

Member: Simon Matlala

Date: 4 November 2025

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

Thanks for the following streets that have been attended to:

Dahlia Street potholes have been filled up.

The following streets still need to be attended to:

1. Leilie Avenue – only half of the street was attended to; there are still many potholes that need to be fixed.
2. Aster Street – very bad, needs attention.
3. Vygie Street – very bad potholes need attention.
4. Olienhou Street – very bad, needs attention at numbers 49, 96, and 1.
5. Waterberry Street – very bad potholes at numbers 75, 77, and 136 need attention.

Please, we need assistance with these potholes on our streets. It's a serious problem that needs to be addressed. However, we appreciate the work already done on some of the streets — thank you for attending to those.

Signature:

SIMON SELLO MATLALA

04-Nov-25

PORTFOLIO : PUBLIC SAFETY, WARD 14, FOCHVILLE.

MONTH : Nov-25

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO : JC VAN DER MERWE

1.) ELECTRICAL CABLE FAULTS / THEFT OUTAGES :

ELECTRICAL OUTAGES ON EASTERN SIDE OF JAKARANDA FOR SEVERAL DAYS / TIMES.
SECURITY COMPANIES / CPF / AFRIFORUM / SAPS AND WARDENS DID PATROLS
AT ALL AFFECTED AREAS.

2.) BURGLARIES / STOLEN ITEMS :

12 OCT 25 : PALM STREET BURGLARY. JAKARANDA STREET STONES THROWN WINDOW.
DAHLIA STREET STONES THROUGH WINDOW. BLOEKOM DUSBIN STOLEN.

3.) C.P.F.

SEVERAL OPERATIONS TOGETHER WITH SAPS CONDUCTED IN OUTERSKIRTS OF WARD.

4.) ACCIDENTS :

SEVERAL ON THE N12 AND R500.

5.) CAMERA SYSTEMS :

STILL SAME AS PREVIOUS REPORT.

6.) SPEED HUMBS :

STILL SAME AS PREVIOUS REPORT.

7.) POTHOLEs :

STILL SAME AS PREVIOUS REPORT.

8.) PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT :

STILL SAME AS PREVIOUS REPORT.

9.) MISSING PERSONS REPORT :

15 YEAR OLD GIRL WENT MISSING, FOUND BY THE HELP OF COMMUNITY.

10.) INCOMPLETED HOUSES :

STILL SAME AS PREVIOUS REPORT.

11.) FIELD FIRES :

SEVERAL PICES OF THE R 500 WAS SET ALIGHT AGAIN.

FIRE DEPARMENT AND COMMUNITY RESPOND ACCORDINGLY TO HELP SET IT OUT OR
DID " CONROLE FIRE BREAKS ", BURNING PIECES THAT WAS LEFT TO BURN.

12.) WATER CRISIS :

THE FACT THAT RAND WATER RESTRICT MERAFONG LEAD TO A QUITE PEACEFULL
MARCH TO CARLETONVILLE FROM KOKOSI.

ALL SAFETY PRECAUSIONS WERE IN PLACE BY COMMUNITY , SCHOOLS, BUSSINESSES,
SAPS AND PUBLIC SAFETY.



JC VD MERWE

0828008668

LED Report – Ward 14 (Fochville Area)

Month: November 2025

Review Period: October 2025

Date: 07 November 2025

Executive Summary

During October 2025, the service-delivery collapse in Ward 14 escalated into open protest and heightened civic unrest. The twin crises of water scheduling reductions by Rand Water/Merafong City Local Municipality and repeated infrastructure failures undermined any remaining LED prospects. The protest actions signal that residents' patience has been exhausted—and unless rapid corrective action occurs, the downward spiral will deepen.

1. Business Environment & Municipal Support

The local business climate remains extremely hostile: ongoing uncertainties in both water and electricity supply continue to erode operational viability for micro-enterprises and formal businesses alike. Municipal support remains absent. Despite the looming protest, no tangible relief or visible LED initiative was deployed during October. The service delivery protest itself signals heightened risk for business operations—disruptions, traffic blockages, and reputational uncertainty all feed investor wariness.

2. Energy & Water Services

Energy: Much of the electricity disruption remains local (faults, capacity constraints) rather than national load-shedding. Businesses continue to incur additional costs from generator use and downtime. No major infrastructure upgrades or Eskom capacity increases were implemented in October.

Water: Rand Water and Merafong City escalated water supply cutbacks, citing the municipality's debt of approximately R1.4 billion. In October, the community shutdown on 24 October was triggered by water cuts and general service-delivery failure. Reports indicate new 'scheduling' or rotational supply plans being imposed—many households and businesses in Fochville, Kokosi, Greenspark, and Khotsoville are now facing planned days without water or severe restrictions.

The protest included demands for full restoration of services, after residents concluded 'we cannot wait any longer.' Vulnerable institutions such as the SAVF Retirement Village and frail-care units continue to face inhuman conditions due to the unpredictable and insufficient supply. The new water scheduling plan does not mitigate the humanitarian impact and may worsen it by institutionalizing scarcity.

3. Municipal Planning & LED Strategy

Merafong's proposed 10-point turnaround strategy remains largely unimplemented in Ward 14. The October protest reflected widespread public disillusionment with municipal leadership and a loss of confidence in the institution. The memorandum handed over during the protest demanded forensic audits, resignations of senior officials, and urgent restoration of water and electricity services. While the municipality continues to reference its 2025/26 IDP and budget, capacity and trust deficits prevent execution. This is a total disaster as the bureaucrats work on a R2.8 billion Rand budget at a 60% collection rate. The problem with this is The operational expense for the current year is R2.7 Billion rand but the 60% collection rate is only R1.68 billion and even worse the actual collection rate is between 49%-50% - a mere R1.4 billion and this leaves an operational deficit of R1.4 billion. There is on this facts no reason or rational for the current Merafong Council to exist or allowed to continue taking into account that Cogta , Gauteng Province and National Finance have no powers or control over the Merafong Municipality and it stays business as usual.

4. Socioeconomic Outlook & Trust Deficit

Civic trust is at critical lows. The organised community shutdown involving Fochville, Kokosi, Khotsoville, and surrounding areas reflects the depth of discontent. With formal water scheduling now implemented, residents perceive the service-delivery collapse as intentional neglect. Public health risks are intensifying—sanitation, food hygiene, and healthcare operations are compromised. Economic activity continues to decline, investment confidence has evaporated, and job losses are rising as small and medium-sized businesses struggle to survive.



LED Priorities for November 2025

Area: Energy

Status / Issue: Ongoing local faults, theft, and weak maintenance, R1.2 billion debt unresolved

LED Implication: Businesses face downtime; higher cost structures; growth deterred

Area: Water Services

Status / Issue: Scheduling imposed, bulk supply reduced, R1.4 billion debt unresolved

LED Implication: Public health emergency, investor risk, social instability

Area: Municipal Engagement

Status / Issue: Protest (24 Oct) reveals civic breakdown, municipal plan unimplemented

LED Implication: Governance legitimacy eroded; public trust collapsed

Area: Economic Outlook

Status / Issue: No new LED projects; heightened uncertainty; increased cost burden

LED Implication: Downward trajectory; little chance of near-term recovery

Strategic Recommendations

1. Immediate Implementation of Water Scheduling Mitigation Plan – Publish the full schedule, ensure transparent communication, and prioritise frail-care facilities for tanker supply.
2. Address the Protest Demands – Engage community leaders, open formal dialogue, and publish short-term progress reports to rebuild trust.
3. Activate LED Contingency Framework – Focus on resilience initiatives such as local boreholes, solar water purification, and micro-enterprise support.
4. Strengthen Stakeholder Collaboration – Establish a civic-business-NGO platform to track service delivery and escalate unresolved issues to provincial and national authorities.

Conclusion

October 2025 underscored that the service-delivery crisis in Ward 14 has crossed into a state of civic instability. The imposition of water scheduling, unresolved R1.4 billion debt, and lack of progress on municipal turnaround strategies have created a volatile environment. Unless decisive intervention is taken, Fochville, Kokosi, Greenspark, and Khotsoville will continue to experience economic decline and humanitarian distress.

Yours truly,



Jaco van der Merwe
LED: Ward 14 portfolio

MONTHLY REPORT

PORTFOLIO: Intergraded Environmental Management

MONTH: November 2025

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO: Heidi Hattingh

We are still awaiting feedback from Merafong.

There is ongoing rubbish accumulation throughout Ward 14.

Sidewalk trees in Ward 14 have yet to be trimmed.

Previously reported potholes remained unaddressed.

We appreciate the efforts of those who cleaned Kiepersol fields.

Additionally, several sections of the R500 were set alight again, and the fire department responded accordingly.

Signature:



Date:

04th of November 2025

MONTHLY REPORT – WARD 14

PORTFOLIO: Finance

MONTH: November 2025

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO: CWA NIEUWoudt

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to submit the following finance related reports to the ward committee for information and discussion. To date the following reports have been received from Cllr Zwart:

- Revenue Management Report
- Section 71 and 52 report, only council item, no annexure.

The following reports are submitted in terms of “Matters arising” from the minutes of the meeting held **on 7 October 2025**.

- Valuation Appeal Board Proceedings – DMH Attorneys

Discussion

- **Revenue Management Report**

Attached is the Revenue Management report for September, Quarter 1 of the 2025/2026 financial year.

Collection Rates

In terms of the report, the collection rate for the month of September 2025 was 57% and the average collection rate for the **quarter was 57%**. This reflects a slight improvement from the previous report but is still far below the **budgeted rate of 65 %**

According to Area Billing/Collection report, the collection rate in Fochville was **80%**, whilst the **Industrial** area and **Farms** in Fochville reflect a collection rate of **3%** and **2%** respectively. If these figures are correct, this is a serious concern but no indication is given of the reasons for the abnormal low collection rate for the farms and industrial areas.

Carletonville reflects a collection rate of **69%** and **Wedela 70%**.

The **township areas** of Khutsong, Kokosi and Greenspark still reflects figures of **below 10%**.

According to the ward report, **Ward 14** reflects a collection rate of **28%** which is extremely low. The ward councillor was requested in the previous report to obtain a detailed report in this regard to establish whether the figures are correctly calculated, taken into account that the ward also includes a mining area. The ward figure used to be close to 100%.

Rates and Taxes.

In terms of the report, 296 Clearance certificate applications were received for the quarter and 288 certificates were issued and 188 new ownership accounts were issued, which is an indication of the property market activity in Merafong.

The report further indicates the following:

- The valuation roll vs the financial system reconciliation was performed up to the end of August 2025 and was in balance in terms of property market value.
- The disputes between the Municipality and the Mining houses are still ongoing with the matter still being deliberated at the Municipal Valuation Appeals Board.
- VAB has currently resumed with their sittings with their next sitting scheduled from the 14th -17th October 2025.
- The anticipated ruling and finalisation of the appeals process is anticipated to be before the end of December 2025.
- The balance of the Trust account of the mining houses held by the attorneys amounts to **R 100,834,103**.

*(As per the resolution of the previous ward committee meeting, a separate progress report on the Mining houses dispute is **attached**

Balances owed on rates & taxes by the respective mining houses at the end of September 2025 is indicated in the table in the report with a total of

R 2,602,839,835 as at 30 September 2025.

Meter Reading performance

According to the report, 965 electrical meters could not be read and 9531 water meters, due to reasons indicated in the report. The loss of revenue due to this situation is enormous and it is suggested that a detailed program be developed for the infrastructure department to rectify the situation. It should also be noted that this excludes areas that are not metered at all, example Kokosi Ext 6 with 2138 unmetered stands. Although a grant funded project was approved in the current budget, no progress can be reported. It is understood that the appointed contractor withdrew from the site due to community resistance. This is however not stated in the report.

It should be noted that there is still a total of **23241 non- purchasing** electricity meters.

It was originally reported that the TID Conversion process would be used to rectify this situation. According to the report 67% of meters have been

converted. It is therefore clear that this process did not yield the anticipated results and meters were either bridged again or never corrected or replaced.

The municipality also reported that a strategy has been adopted to install smart meters and was budgeted for, but no progress is reported, clearly indicating that this is a pipe dream. Strict by-law and law enforcement is the only solution but it seems that there is no political will to address this situation which is the reason for Merafong's desperate financial situation.

Credit Control

According to Table A7 of the report, credit control is still not conducted in township areas. A total of 411 disconnections and 278 reconnections were done. The report is still silent on the amounts collected and arrangements approved due to these actions.

The Municipal debt is still increasing at an alarming rate and stands at R6.9 billion.

- **Financial Position, Section 71 report**

Although the Sect 71/52 report could not be obtained, the poor financial position of council reported for the first quarter of the 2025/2026 financial year is evident from the Revenue Report. It is clear that the budget was again unrealistic and the projected revenue is overstated. The collection rate of 57% is an improvement from the first report but still far below the projected budgeted figure of 65%.

Credit control is still implemented selectively and not throughout Merafong in accordance with Council policy. It is clear that the appointed service providers are failing. What steps are being implemented to correct this matter? This question remains an open question seeing that no feedback has ever been received.

Water and Electricity losses and specifically bridged electricity meters are still the status quo with **23241 non-purchasing** bridged meters. It was reported in the adjustment budget and budget that funds have been allocated for the installation of SMART meters to address this matter. How far is the implementation of this project?

The billing crisis still continues with serious discrepancies on a monthly basis. Some residents are being charged exorbitant consumption which is not in line with the actual readings. These figures obviously lead to incorrect financial reporting and collection rates. Ward 14 is reported to have a collection rate of 28 % which cannot be correct based on historic reports.

When will the billing issues be resolved to reflect accurate financial reporting?

The effect the dismal financial position of council has on basic service delivery is alarming and constitutes total collapse. Council is not in a position to fulfill its Constitutional mandate despite being under administration for some time. The Financial Recovery Plan clearly does not yield any results.

The situation with the provision of water in ward 14 and throughout Merafong is desperate, all due to the non-payment of Rand Water. Council failed to develop and adopt a clear plan of action and to communicate such with the affected communities. The official communication only pointed out the obvious, that the reservoirs are empty.

What mandate has council given to the Executive and Administration to negotiate with Rand Water and the MEC? Without a clear mandate and commitments by the relevant spheres of government, the ongoing meetings are just talk shops with no resolution of the situation.

Recommendation

1. That the Revenue Management Report be noted with concern.
2. That the ward councillor verifies and obtain feedback on the reported 28% collection rate of ward 14, 2% on Farms and 3% on Industrial properties.
3. That the report on the Rates dispute with the mining houses be noted as a per **attached annexure**.
4. That the poor performance of meter readings be noted and that an action plan be approved by council to address the matter which is mostly infrastructure related.
5. That the poor performance on the implementation of the Electricity TID process and the **23241 non- purchasing** electricity meters be noted with concern.
6. That feedback be obtained on the implementation of the smart metering project and the correction of bridged meters.
7. That it be noted that still no credit control is conducted in Township areas and no feedback on the reasons therefore have been given. This is a clear violation of council's own policies without any oversight, accountability or consequence management.

8. That the dismal financial position of council and the effect on basic service delivery and the provision of water be noted.
9. That a clear plan of action be developed and adopted by council to mandate any negotiations with Rand Water and other spheres of government and that it be communicated to the community.



Annexure A
M374-Merafong City

Original signed

CWA Nieuwoudt

30/10/2025

Ward 14 Social and Health Representative Monthly Report

Compiled by: Abraham Brits

Reporting Period: 4 November 2025

Summary of Findings and Concerns

As the Ward 14 Social and Health Representative, I wish to conclude this year's reporting cycle by providing a consolidated summary of the matters I have repeatedly raised throughout the year—none of which have received adequate attention or action from the Merafong Municipality.

Despite continuous reporting and engagement, it is evident that there has been no measurable progress on the issues affecting the health, safety, and dignity of our community.

1. Public Health and Environmental Neglect

I have repeatedly reported on the deteriorating state of pavements, which have become increasingly hazardous. This neglect has led to the proliferation of rats and other disease-carrying vermin, posing a serious health threat to residents, particularly children and the elderly. No intervention or maintenance has been observed to address this situation.

Additionally, Fochville residents are effectively being held ransom by undocumented individuals from neighbouring countries who continuously raid household refuse bins in search of recyclable materials. In doing so, they remove valuable items and irresponsibly discard the remaining waste in open fields, parks, and public spaces. This unlawful and unhygienic behaviour not only degrades our environment but also undermines community safety and cleanliness — and yet, despite numerous complaints, no effective action has been taken to stop it.

2. Ongoing Municipal Account Problems

For over two years, residents of Ward 14 and the broader Merafong area have been subjected to ongoing billing errors and poor service from the municipal accounts department. Repeated attempts to resolve these discrepancies have been ignored, leaving residents frustrated, financially burdened, and without confidence in the system's integrity.

3. Lack of Support for Social Development

Ward 14 has received no support for social or community upliftment campaigns. Initiatives aimed at assisting vulnerable residents or promoting health and safety awareness have been left entirely to the community or non-profit organisations, as the Municipality has provided no visible participation or funding.

4. Water Supply Failures and Human Dignity

The persistent water supply issues continue to strip residents of their basic human dignity, particularly affecting the elderly residents of the local old age home. Extended water outages

without communication or contingency measures are unacceptable and demonstrate a serious disregard for the wellbeing of our most vulnerable citizens.

5. Power Supply and Infrastructure Failures

Frequent and prolonged power interruptions have become the norm. The municipal budget has failed to make adequate provision for the necessary upgrades to wiring, distribution boxes, and other electrical infrastructure. This short-sightedness has left residents exposed to constant outages and safety risks.

6. Complete Breakdown in Communication

There is a total lack of communication between the Merafong Municipality and its residents. Notices are rarely given, concerns go unanswered, and decisions affecting the community are made without consultation or transparency.

7. Conclusion

It is clear that Merafong Municipality's management lacks the ability to plan, manage, or deliver basic services effectively. The administration appears disconnected from the needs of the community and motivated by self-interest rather than public service.

If it were not for the initiative of residents, local businesses, and non-profit organisations—who have taken it upon themselves to repair roads, clean up refuse, and maintain public spaces—Ward 14, along with the rest of Merafong, would have fallen into complete decay.

This report serves as an urgent call for the Municipality to acknowledge its failures, take responsibility, and implement corrective action before further harm is done to the wellbeing and dignity of our residents.

Sports ground and Library

Stella de Beer

Sport:

- Some areas have electricity
- Bathrooms are still a huge concern and not user friendly
- Still waiting for the water problem to be fixed
- Security is a big issue as the fence is still down at the back and anyone can gain access into the area to vandalise it
- Illegal dumping around the sports grounds is taking place because of members are coming from Kokosi and dump what ever they want to there and that is an easy way for illegal activities to take place in and around the area and it is opposite SAVF, and this is also an easy access to the SAVF
- The security at the gate if they are there is, giving access to anyone without completing a formal register to keep record on who is entering and exiting the area
- Lights are burning too long at the rugby fields, and this must be tested for summertime that the timer can go off earlier in the evenings

Library:

- There are two permanent workers in the library
- There are no new books that can be used
- Bathrooms are still a huge issue ass they do not look good, and this is not giving a good impression
- The building is an issue it's leaking when it rains and books can get rotten because of water damage
- The inside does not look good because of water damage and needs to be repainted
- A bigger space is needed as it is too small for books, shelves, students and readers
- No stationary for underprivileged kids that is in need of it when they come to the library
- Telephones in place
- Staff must undergo training if there is a fire in the library to make sure they use the right fire equipment
- Computers are outdated and the monitors are still the small monitors

- There are not any traces of an archive for old books, I would suggest that some of the offices not in use can be used for this purpose
- The library needs a revamp and new technology to assist learners in our town to make a difference in their daily lives and to make their work easier
- Staff must also undergo training for in a case of ambushing what to do and who to phone especially if there are learners in the library and how to protect them
- Security measures must be put in place for the staff and learners as safety comes first

Concern:

The supervisor of the swimming pool is giving the children permission to get water from the swimming pool and there was a hosepipe in the swimming pool to fill it up on the 14th September while ward 14 is having a water crises

Monthly Report – November 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
- 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 – Accounts are still not correct, residents struggling to get Merafong to assist in correcting incorrect amounts i.e. overcharging on water etc, some residents are being switched off due to these incorrect errors
- Library – No feedback re maintenance/upgrades/books errors
- 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

There has not been any recent Sec80 to share