

WARD 14

REPORT 2026/02/03

PORTFOLIO: WATER AND ELECTRICITY

ELECTRICITY

Street lights burning in Losberg Ave during the day. First reported in July 2024. Nothing has been done since.

ISSUE

Streetlights in Losberg Ave are burning during the day, resulting in unnecessary energy consumption and potential safety concerns

OBSERVATIONS

Streetlight are staying on despite daylight hours

Possible causes: Faulty Photoelectric cells, timer malfunctions or electrical issues

Energy waste and increased carbon footprint

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Investigate and repair faulty streetlight controls
- 2 Implement energy efficient solutions
- 3 Schedule regular maintenance checks

We request a response on the actions to be taken and a timeline for resolution

Streetlights not working

Stinkhout

Keurboom 32 Pole nr 82

28 Pole nr 84 and 85

Kiepersol 54 - 60

Denne

Jacaranda 18c pole 19, 33,

Kiaat 1

Anemoon

Malva

Stinkhout 47

Annemoon Pole nr 63

Wattle 16 pole 256

Vygie

Ebbehout 3/11

Ouhout 16 – 28

Akasia

Kareeboom

Mimosa

Waterberry

Peperkorrel 1,2,4

Poppelier

Olienhout

Disa

Palm

Protea

Tulp

Corner of Disa and Denne

Corner of Ebbehout Olienhout

Corner of Denne and Eike

Reported Ref Nr: K40Z89YN26

This is a great concern as most of the streetlights in ward 14 are not working, leaving the area poorly lit and posing a risk to pedestrians, motorists and cyclists.

RISK	DESCRIPTION
Accidents	Increased risk of accidents
Crime	Poor lighting can encourage criminal activity
Safety	Pedestrians are at risk

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Repair or replace non-functional streetlights urgently
2. Increase frequency of streetlight maintenance checks
3. Install additional lighting if necessary

We request a response on the actions to be taken and a timeline for resolution

EvdMouwe
Engela van der Merwe

03-Feb-26

PORTFOLIO : PUBLIC SAFETY, WARD 14, FOCHVILLE.

MONTH : Feb-26

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO : JC VAN DER MERWE

1.) ELECTRICAL CABLE FAULTS / THEFT OUTAGES :

ELECTRICAL OUTAGES DUE CABLE FAULT.
SECURITY COMPANIES / CPF / AFRIFORUM / SAPS AND WARDENS DID PATROLS
AT ALL AFFECTED AREAS.

2.) BURGLARIES / STOLEN ITEMS :

NOTHING RECEIVED FROM DETECTIVES / SAPS.
SEVERAL HOUSE BREAKINGS ON OUESKIRTS STREETS.

3.) C.P.F.

SEVERAL OPERATIONS TOGETHER WITH SAPS CONDUCTED IN AND OUT 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.) POTHLES :

STILL SAME AS PREVIOUS REPORT.

8.) PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT :

STILL SAME AS PREVIOUS REPORT.

9.) MISSING PERSONS REPORT :

NO REPORTS FOR TE MONTH

10.) INCOMPLETED HOUSES :

2 STINK HOUT START BUILDING YARD WALLS AND CLOSING DOORS.
ALTHOUGH THE BUILDING RUBBLE AND WAIST ALL OVER.

11.) FIELD FIRES :

NONE RECEIVED

12.) WATER CRISIS :

STILL ONGOING IN HIGH LAYING AREAS.


JC VD MERWE
0828008668

LED Update Report – Ward 14 (Fochville)

Date: 3 February 2026

Context: Service Delivery Decline & Proposed Development Objections

1. Background and Context

This update reflects continued deterioration in service delivery within Merafong City Local Municipality, with Ward 14 remaining disproportionately affected. The update further incorporates assessment of a proposed land-use change and development application affecting Erven 1498, 1499 and 1500, Fochville Extension 2.

2. Current Service Delivery Environment

As at February 2026, Ward 14 has experienced repeated extended water outages, including periods exceeding three consecutive weeks without potable water. This remains directly linked to the unresolved dispute between Rand Water and Merafong City regarding bulk water arrears exceeding R1.4 billion. The instability of basic services continues to undermine public health, social stability, and economic activity.

3. Overview of the Proposed Development

The submitted proposal seeks rezoning from Residential 1 to Business 1 and consolidation of the erven to facilitate rentable business units. The motivation argues alignment with corridor development and economic revitalisation objectives.

The proposal explicitly provides for parking within the street reserve / municipal servitude adjacent to the site in order to maximise developable floor area, with costs to be carried by the applicant.

4. Key Objections and Planning Concerns

a) Municipal Servitude Encroachment:

The proposed parking layout encroaches into a municipal servitude and road reserve intended for public infrastructure. Given the current failure of water, sewer, and stormwater systems, preservation of these servitudes is critical for future upgrades and emergency interventions.

b) Residential Impact:

The site is located directly opposite established residential properties. All affected residents across from the development have rejected the proposal due to concerns regarding traffic, noise, loss of amenity, and further erosion of residential character.

c) Traffic and Safety:

Shifting parking demand into the public road reserve transfers private development impacts onto public infrastructure, reducing road capacity and creating safety risks for residents, service vehicles, and emergency access.

d) LED Viability:

Local Economic Development cannot be sustainably advanced in an environment where basic services are unreliable. Intensifying land use under current conditions risks compounding infrastructure failure rather than promoting durable economic growth.

5. Community Position

Residents directly affected by the proposal have unanimously objected to the development. Their position is that rezoning and business intensification should not proceed while essential services remain unstable and municipal servitudes are required for future infrastructure remediation.

6. LED Assessment and Recommendation

From an LED perspective, the proposal is premature and misaligned with the current realities in Ward 14. Economic development must be service-led, context-sensitive, and socially supported.

Recommendation:

That the application be deferred or refused until water stability is restored, municipal servitudes are protected from encroachment, full engineering and traffic assessments are concluded, and meaningful community consent is demonstrated.

Yours faithfully,



Jaco van der Merwe

LED: Ward 14 Portfolio

Monthly Social and Health Report – Abraham Brits

Reporting Period: 3 February 2026

This report highlights ongoing social and public health concerns within the community that require urgent attention from the municipality.

1. Illegal Dumping and Health Risks

Illegal dumping remains a serious and escalating problem, posing health and environmental risks to residents:

- **Olienhout Street:** A large and growing dumping area has developed, creating unsanitary conditions and attracting pests.
- **Bloekom (Empty Plots):** Vacant plots are increasingly being used as informal dump sites.
- **Protea Street:** The area is littered with household refuse and garden waste, contributing to poor living conditions.
- **Keurboom:** Building rubble is being dumped, creating safety risks for pedestrians and motorists.

These conditions present clear health hazards and undermine the safety and dignity of the community.

2. Municipal Accounts and Billing Issues

Residents continue to experience problems with **incorrect, incomplete, or missing municipal accounts**.

This makes it impossible for residents to meet their payment obligations, as they are not informed of the correct amounts due. Clear, accurate, and timeous billing is essential for compliance and trust.

3. Budget Transparency and Public Participation

There is serious concern regarding:

- **Inadequate communication of the municipal budget**, limiting residents' understanding of allocations and priorities.
- **Municipal meetings being held online**, with little or no effective public access, which restricts transparency and meaningful community participation.

These practices weaken accountability and exclude residents from processes that directly affect them.

4. Conclusion

The issues raised above reflect ongoing service delivery, public health, and governance challenges. Urgent intervention, improved communication, and genuine public engagement are required to address these concerns and restore confidence in municipal processes.

MONTHLY REPORT PORTFOLIO: Human settlement and Land Development

MONTH: February 2026

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO: Francois Hattingh

Re: Unfinished houses and illegal structures in ward 14. According to building inspector notices were issued. Who is following up on this?

New development in Ward 14 what is the positive and negative impact for residents?

What is happening on the 3 open stands in front of Keurboom 28, 30 and 32 Fochville

Any new info on Town House development by Remax in Olienhout Fochville.

Keurboom 38 Fochville – City planner Nina said they can continue building, owner received whatApp to contact Merafong.

Francois Hattingh

03 February 2026

MONTHLY REPORT – WARD 14

PORTFOLIO: Finance

MONTH: February 2026

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO: CWA NIEUWOUDT

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform the ward committee of the Auditor General Audit report as at 30 June 2025. As reported in January, no municipal financial report can be submitted for the month, seeing that the section 72 report that was due for submission to council by 25 January 2026, has not been received. It is therefore also not possible to report on whether an adjustment budget is required.

No information on the Eskom Agency Agreement or the Rand Water Payment Agreement as requested in the previous report, has been received from the ward councilor, therefore no further information can be reported in this regard.

Background

The attached report from the Auditor General (AG) to the Gauteng Provincial Legislator and Council of Merafong City Local Municipality has reference.

Discussion

As reported to the ward committee, the Municipality's has for consecutive years under the current administration, received Disclaimer and Qualified audit opinions from the AG. It was also reported that the municipality has adopted an OPCA (Operation Clean Audit) Plan annually to address the findings. Progress reports are supposed to be submitted monthly to Council to ensure implementation, oversight and consequence management but council's failure in this regard is clear.

It is unfortunate to report that the municipality has again "achieved" a Qualified audit opinion for the 2024/2025 financial year.

The basis of the Qualified opinion is detailed in the report and refers to 12 findings.

This comes as no surprise seeing that most of the issues has been raised and reported to the ward committee in monthly reports.

The first 7 findings relate to: Services charges pertaining to Electricity and Water, Inventory, Interest earned on receivables from exchange, Debt impairment, Financial disclosure notes 48 and 62.

The other findings relate to: Cash flow, Irregular expenditure, VAT payable, Property rates and prior period errors.

It was reported on a regular basis to the ward committee that due to the incorrect meter readings and a non-functional billing and financial system, monthly financial reports cannot be correct. The findings from the Auditor General are therefore not a

surprise but rather a serious indictment on council who failed to execute proper oversight in this regard, seeing that it was timeously and consistently been made aware of the discrepancies, however no action was taken to correct the situation.

The findings on Irregular Expenditure and Property Rates were also expected seeing that the discrepancies were also pointed out in the monthly reports with clear recommendations, but to no avail.

The report is proof of the poor financial affairs, management and governance of the municipality despite the section 139 of the Constitution intervention and the so-called Financial Recovery Plan adopted by the responsible MEC and Council.

Council should also interrogate the management letter and ensure that the necessary corrective measures are implemented and consequence management be applied where required.

The Report on the Audit of the Annual Performance Report has also identified several findings. This report is basically reporting on the implementation and reporting of the Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP). The audit focused only on Goal 1 of the 6 Goals.

Goal 1 relates to Basic Service Delivery. The audit only focused on material findings and not to express an assurance opinion. An achievement of 333 out of a target of 300 was reported in the Annual report but the audit based on the audit evidence found that only 60 targets were actually achieved. This translates to 20 % performance on the set targets of the SDBIP.

This is a shockingly low performance figure, bearing in mind that Council on a quarterly basis receives performance reports and must resolve on corrective measures where in-year targets are not met. This is again a clear indication that council failed to conduct oversight throughout the year and ensure that the

administration execute their performance plans.

Throughout the year not a single performance report was made public as required and the adjustment of targets during the mid-year assessment was not done properly and reported, hence this dismal outcome. The worse part of it is the fact that paying residents of Merafong has not received basic services, indicating a total failure of Council and the administration, despite being under administration. This can only be interpreted as the gross misappropriation of public funds.

The responsibilities of the Accounting Officer, being the Municipal Manager is clearly pointed out in the report and Council needs to consider corrective measures in this regard.

Recommendations

1. That the Audit report for the 2024/2025 financial year be noted with serious concerns.
2. That council interrogates the report and management letter to agree on a plan of action.
3. That consequence management be implemented to address consecutive failures in financial management and governance of council.

SIGNATURE: Original Signed

CWA NIEUWOUDT DATE:03/02/2025

MONTHLY REPORT PORTFOLIO: Intergraded Environmental Management

MONTH: February 2026

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. I would appreciate information regarding the planned construction on the three open stands adjacent to Olyf Gim.

The owners of 28 and 30 Keurboom, Fochville, received their registered letter from the attorneys only on 19 December 2025, which did not allow adequate time to respond, as the letter was dated 5 December 2025.

Furthermore, the notice posted by the attorneys was placed exclusively on Losberg Avenue and not on the Keurboom side.

Signature: Date: 03 February 2026

Monthly Report Portfolio:

Road, Storm water and public works Member: Mr. Simon Matlala

Month: February 2026

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

1. Olienhout street no 49,57,92,94 and 104 very bad potholes need attention.
2. Ouhout street in the corner no 4 very bad potholes need attention
3. Lilian avenue very bad potholes the whole street need attention
4. Kareeboom street 22 need attention
5. Dalia street very bad potholes whole street need attention
6. Aster street whole street very bad potholes

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

Thank you

Mr. Simon Matlala

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
- ☒ Kids are driving around with motorcycles recklessly in the vicinity of the sports grounds and security is allowing 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 as they do not look good, and this is not giving a good impression, and it is leaking and water going down the passages
- ☒ 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 needs 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 civic centre must be painted outside and inside

The security at the sports grounds is allowing a lot of people entering and does not care about that. Buildings get vandalised and the security does not report anything, copper pipes etc been stolen.

People using the civic centre and they do not clean the areas clean up

measurements must be implemented when people make use of the civic centre.