

6 March 2026

Mr K. Lerutla
City Manager
City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality
Cnr Cross and Rose Streets
GERMISTON
1401

By email: City.Manager@ekurhuleni.gov.za

CC: Mr S. Vezi
Regional Manager: Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
siyabonga.vezi@dmre.gov.za

Ms C. Khanyile
Secretary: Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
Carol.Khanyile@dmre.gov.za

Dear Mr Lerutla

URGENT ATTENTION REQUIRED REGARDING ESKOM DEBT AND POTENTIAL REDUCTION OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

AfriForum is a non-profit organisation dedicated to protecting the constitutional rights of our members and the communities to which they belong. We act on behalf of our members residing and conducting business within the jurisdiction of the City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality.

We note with serious concern Eskom's public notice indicating its intention to interrupt or reduce the bulk electricity supply to the Municipality due to outstanding debt reportedly exceeding R3,4 billion.

This development poses an immediate and significant risk to residents, businesses, essential services and the broader local economy. Law-abiding consumers who consistently meet their municipal payment obligations should not be prejudiced because of financial mismanagement or governance failures within the Municipality.

Constitutional and statutory obligations

In terms of section 152 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, a municipality must ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner and promote a safe and healthy environment.

June 2024

Address: 58 Union Avenue, Kloofsig, Centurion • **Tel.:** 086 10 200 30
Member Affairs – Email: ledesake@afriforum.co.za • **Directors:** Ms A. Bailey, Mr P.J.W. Buys, Dr H.K. Coetzee, Mr P.L. Dekker, Mr F.J.D. de Klerk, Mr G.R. de Vries, Dr D.J. Hermann, Mr W.G. Human, Mr C.M. Kriel and Dr R. Pretorius. • **Company Secretary:** Mr W.A. Vogel.
Registration number: 2005/042861/08 • **NGO number:** 054 - 590

Electricity supply constitutes a basic municipal service essential to dignity, economic participation, healthcare delivery and public safety. Any failure to secure bulk supply arrangements that safeguard residents may amount to a breach of the Municipality's constitutional and statutory obligations.

Furthermore, the Municipal Finance Management Act 56 of 2003 (MFMA) places a duty on municipal leadership to ensure sound financial management, prevent unauthorised or irregular expenditure and maintain sustainable fiscal practices.

Public accountability and transparency

Given the seriousness of the matter, we respectfully request that the Municipality:

1. Provide a comprehensive written explanation detailing how the outstanding Eskom debt accumulated.
2. Furnish a credible and implementable repayment plan, including clear timelines and budgetary allocations.
3. Confirm what measures are being taken to ensure that compliant residents and critical infrastructure are protected against any reduction in electricity supply.
4. Clarify whether alternative mechanisms, including structured payment agreements or direct payment models, are being considered.
5. Indicate what steps are being taken to prevent further escalation of municipal debt.

Urgent resolution required

Please advise, in writing, of the steps the Municipality intends to take and the timeline for implementation.

Should urgent and effective measures not be instituted to safeguard residents' rights and access to basic services, AfriForum will have no alternative but to consider further appropriate legal and constitutional remedies to protect the interests of the community.

We trust that this matter will be treated with the seriousness and urgency it warrants and look forward to your written response by no later than 13 March 2026.

I thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Yours faithfully

Nadia Olckers
District Coordinator: East Rand
Community Structures

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