

14 May 2026

Mr F Brink
City Manager
City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality
Metropolitan Centre
1st Floor Council Chamber Wing
158 Civic Boulevard
Braamfontein
JOHANNESBURG
2000

Dear Mr Brink

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE CITY'S PROPOSED INCREASE IN WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT LEVY

AfriForum is a non-profit civil rights organisation focused on the protection and promotion of community and minority rights. We derive our mandate from more than 150 established branches across South Africa, including our Randburg branch in Johannesburg. AfriForum maintains an active membership presence within the municipal area.

We take note of recent public reports regarding the City of Johannesburg's proposed increase of approximately 65,6% in the water demand management levy, effective from 1 July 2026. The levy, currently set at R65,08 (excluding VAT) per month, is proposed to increase to R107,74 per month for domestic users.

Given the substantial impact that such an increase will have on residents, including our members and the broader public, it is essential that the City ensures transparency and accountability in its tariff-setting process.

Furthermore, Section 5 of the Municipal Fiscal Powers and Functions Act 12 of 2007 stipulates the following regarding municipal taxes and levies:

5. (1) A municipality, group of municipalities or organised local government must submit an application to the Minister, which application must –
 - (a) set out the reasons for the imposition of the proposed municipal tax;
 - (b) the purposes for which revenue derived from the collection of the municipal tax will be utilised;

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

(c) give particulars on the proposed municipal tax's compliance with section 229(2)(a) of the Constitution;

(d) give particulars on the proposed municipal tax's compliance with the prohibition contained in section 229(1)(b) of the Constitution;

AfriForum hereby formally requests that the City of Johannesburg provide detailed information regarding the basis upon which this significant increase has been calculated. Specifically, we request:

- the underlying methodology used to determine the proposed increase;
- any supporting data, financial models, or cost analyses used to justify the adjustment; and
- clarification on how this levy aligns with the requirements of cost-reflectivity and fairness as contemplated in applicable legislation.

Furthermore, the municipality must provide AfriForum with the municipality's application for approval from the Minister of Finance for the applicable levy as set out above as well as the minister's approval.

Kindly provide us with a response within seven working days.

Kind regards

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