

24 July 2026

Mohale Mopedi
Acting Municipal Mayor
Mohokare Local Municipality
20 Hoofd Street
Zastron
9950

By email:

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For the urgent attention of:
Acting Municipal Mayor

**URGENT LETTER OF DEMAND: ESKOM DEBT AND RISK OF ELECTRICITY
INTERRUPTION**

Dear Acting Mayor

AfriForum refers to media reports that Mohokare Local Municipality owes Eskom approximately **R135 million** and that Eskom warned the municipality that its electricity supply could be interrupted due to non-payment.

It is further reported that Eskom addressed a letter to the municipality on 4 July 2026 and that the municipality is negotiating a repayment arrangement with Eskom. Despite the serious consequences of this matter, councillors and residents have reportedly received little or no information regarding the status of these negotiations.

This is unacceptable.

Residents and businesses in Zastron, Rouxville and Smithfield may not be exposed to electricity interruptions because the municipality has failed to honour its financial obligations to Eskom.

The situation is particularly concerning in light of reports that National Treasury has temporarily withheld Mohokare's equitable-share transfer due to continued non-compliance with the Municipal Finance Management Act.

AfriForum hereby demands that Mohokare Local Municipality, within **seven working days** of receiving this letter:

1. Confirm the municipality's total outstanding debt to Eskom, including interest and any additional charges.
2. Provide a copy of Eskom's letter dated 4 July 2026.

3. Confirm whether a repayment agreement has been concluded with Eskom and provide the terms and payment schedule of the agreement.
4. Provide written confirmation that the electricity supply to Zastron, Rouxville and Smithfield will not be interrupted while the municipality complies with the repayment agreement.
5. Explain how the debt accumulated and what measures are being implemented to ensure that it does not increase further.
6. Issue a public statement informing residents of the current position, the risk of electricity interruptions and the steps being taken to protect the affected communities.

The municipality must treat this matter as an urgent priority. Residents who pay their municipal accounts cannot be expected to bear the consequences of the municipality's financial failures.

Should the municipality fail to provide a satisfactory response within seven working days, AfriForum will escalate the matter to Eskom, National Treasury, Free State Provincial Treasury and the Free State Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs. AfriForum further reserves the right to take appropriate public and legal action.

We await your urgent written response.

Kind regards

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