

Information Release Merafong City Local Municipality

During September 2017 Council resolved on strict credit control measures to be implemented as part of a Financial Turnaround Plan. The measures were communicated with the broader community during a Mayoral Outreach Programme in all wards and with the respective stakeholders. Despite this programme, the plan was met with resistance such as intimidation of the council credit control service provider, tampering with prepaid electricity meters, illegal connections and an increasing culture of non-payment.

The effect of this obstructive behaviour and non-conformance sabotaged the implementation of the credit control policy, now at a point where rolling blackouts are a reality for the low paying areas. This measure is necessitated to ensure the management of the Eskom bulk services account which is part of the financial obligation of the municipality.

During the mayoral outreach programme, the community was urged to make use of the programs available such as registering as indigent, as well as making affordable payment arrangements for accounts in arrears. The community is still encouraged to make payment arrangements and / or register as indigent.

During a Council meeting held on 25 October 2018, the council approved the Financial Turn-around Priority plan to concentrate on the reduction of electricity and water losses as well as the increase in the collection rate of Municipal accounts.

Part of this was also confirming the implementation of load shedding and block electricity disconnections.

The schedule is based on a four (4) hour black-out per identified area. The identification of these areas is based on the payment levels of the area. Areas with a level of above 75% are exempted from the initial implementation of the schedule. The payment levels are analysed on a monthly basis, and areas that improve above 75% will be removed from the Schedule and vice versa. Monthly schedules will be communicated on the Municipal website and Council notice boards.

The load shedding of electricity will continue from Wednesday, 27 February 2019 in the areas as listed below.

Where ESKOM load shedding schedule is implemented it will take precedence over the municipal load shedding process.

Area of Supply
Load shedding Schedule

Weekday	Khutsong South	Kokosi	Wedela	Greenspark
Monday			17h00 - 21h00	17h00 - 21h00
Tuesday	17h00 - 21h00	17h00 - 21h01		
Wednesday			17h00 - 21h00	17h00 - 21h00
Thursday	17h00 - 21h00	17h00 - 21h00		
Friday			17h00 - 21h00	17h00 - 21h01
Saturday	15h00 - 19h00	15h00 - 19h00		
Sunday			15h00 - 19h00	15h00 - 19h00

For safety reasons all electrical installations and connections must be treated as live at all times.

Further actions will also be undertaken by the Municipality in the implementation of the Credit Control Priority Plan. This includes Credit Control actions as well as work done by the Infrastructure Department.

Installation and correction of electrical pre-paid meters

The inspection and correction of electrical pre-paid meters will be undertaken on a weekly basis in the areas of Carletonville, Khutsong and Kokosi.

This schedule will be available on the Municipal website (www.merafong.gov.za) as well as Municipal notice boards and will also be available from ward Councillors. Enquiries can be directed to the Municipal Call and Contact Centre on 018 788 9990, the Call Centre for after hour emergencies at 107 or your ward Councillor.