



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

COMMITTEES

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Honourable Ms M R Semanya, Member of Parliament

Chairperson: Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation

:

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05 November 2020

Cllr T Nkademeng

President: South African Local Government Association (SALGA)

PO Box 2094

Pretoria

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Cc. Mr X George - CEO

Dear Cllr

Re: Follow-up on a Joint meeting held on 28 July 2020

On the 28 July 2020, at a joint meeting between the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, and Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Members rejected the Department's submission on proposed water tariffs set by water boards. Members indicated their dissatisfaction with the manner in which the options had been presented to them. There was an insistence by Members of the joint committee meeting that the tariffs should be revised downward in response to COVID-19, and Parliament be consulted about tariffs much earlier in the process, as there is Members felt that they were being asked to rubber-stamp decisions that had been taken without their participation.

Another critical issue emanating from these submissions was the financial sustainability of water boards due to transgressions by municipalities in terms of payment of debt owed. Although the established IMTT has been established, the Portfolio Committee requests a progress report on specific issues pertaining to recovery of debt for services rendered, by all involved stakeholder Members of the Portfolio Committee request a progress report on achievements and challenges on implementation of tariffs determinations from the following stakeholders.

Department of Water and Sanitation – progress report on addressing the implications and impact of the zero-based tariff imposed on water boards for the 2020/21 financial year. The section should include information on outcome of engagements and resolutions derived between all role-players (National

Treasury, Department of Water and Sanitation, and the South African Local Government Association).

Department of Water and Sanitation – role of DWS on the Inter Ministerial Task Team and proposals made by the Department to address debt recovery across the water value chain.

South African Local Government Association (SALGA) – oversight role of SALGA in analysing water tariff determinations and debt recover by water boards and municipalities. Analysis of the challenges and achievements, with requisite recommendations, on how to improve this huge challenge in the water sector.

Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs – monitoring of water tariff determinations and debt recovery by municipalities as provided in the comprehensive report of the Inter-Ministerial Task Team.

Another critical aspect for Members is their oversight role and increased participation of Parliament from the inception of the water tariffs determinations each year. All aforementioned stakeholders to provide an overview on this matter as well.

The meeting is scheduled as indicated below:

Date: Tuesday, 10 November 2020

Time: 19h00 – 22h00

Venue: VIRTUAL MEETING PLATFORM

Yours sincerely

Pp V Makubalo

Ms M R Semanya, MP

Chairperson: PC on Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation