

Departments in debt

More than R7-million owed to Enoch Mgijima Municipality

ZOLILE MENZELWA

GOVERNMENT departments owe the cash-strapped Enoch Mgijima Municipality more than R7-million for the second quarter of the municipal financial year, which ended in December, contributing to the whopping R552-million owed in total for the period.

The Rep reported ("In dire straits," February 3) that executive mayor Lindiwe Gunuza Nkwentsha told council, while presenting her mid-year budget assessment report, that indications were that insufficient cash would be available to fund

Need for education, health, agriculture and public works to settle outstanding services accounts

the budget by June.

Gunuza Nkwentsha said this was due to low revenue collection over the last six months of last year.

The local authority was owed R552-million, up by a total R163-million over six months since last June, when the amount owing to the municipality was R389-million.

The details of debt by government departments were included in the mayor's budget monitoring report, which has been tabled before council.

The health department owes R3.4-million for services

provided to Frontier Hospital, and R212 310 for seven local clinics, while Care Cure Sub Acute Hospital is in debt for R129 580.

The debt owed for the Komani Psychiatric Hospital stands at a total of R1.7-million.

The national Department of Public Works owes R620 840 for offices in Komani and Whittlesea, including the Whittlesea Magistrate's Court.

The agriculture department has an outstanding amount of R98 533, the district roads engineer owes R12 621 while the department of social

development owes an amount of R56 575 dating back to November.

The education department, known for returning R530-million of its infrastructure grant to national Treasury in the 2015-16 financial year, owes Enoch Mgijima R1.4-million.

Of the figure, section 20 schools owe R32 040, private schools owe R44 904 while section 21 schools owe R1.4-million.

The total amount owed to the municipality is R7 692 070.

Section 21 schools receive an allocation from the provincial department of education and pay their own lights and water accounts.

E-mail your view to
sonjar@timesmedia.co.za

