

Government Departments owe Mangaung Millions for water and electricity

On 23 May, Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality (MMM) made its intentions clear to implement full credit control and debt collection measures to properties under the Department of Public Works who have been defaulting on their water and electricity bills.

According to Qondile Khedama, the General Communications Manager for the Metro, from 24 May the City will disconnect water and electricity supply to all defaulting properties under the Department of Public Works. This action is based on Section 35 (b) of the Municipal Finance Management Act 56 of 2003 which stipulates that National and Provincial departments and public entities must promptly meet their financial commitments towards municipalities.

The City issued final Letters of Demand on 1 December 2017. “The municipality has been engaging with the Free State Department of Public Works regarding payment

of accounts in arrears for rates and taxes as well as service charges. Debt owed by government is in excess of R466 million and provincial Public Works owes more than R330.2 million. As the City, we acknowledge payments of R19.5 million and R33 million from the Department on 15 March 2018 and 23 April 2018, respectively. However, more than R330.2 million is still in arrears including rates and taxes,” said Khedama.

“As the City we hope to get the cooperation of all those who are in arrears as we implement full Credit Control and Debt Collection procedures. We are taking these steps in ensuring that as the City we adhere to our constitutional mandate of collecting revenue and providing basic services to the residents of Mangaung,” he concluded.

In photo: The General Communications Manager for MMM Qondile Khedama.

By Johnson Qobo

