

Governments owe R5.7bn for services

NATIONAL and provincial governments owe the country's municipalities a massive R5.7 billion for rates and other services provided by the councils.

A breakdown in figures showed that the debt by national departments stands at R3.1bn, while all nine provinces are indebted to municipalities to the tune of R2.6bn.

The amounts owed have prompted Public Works and Infrastructure Minister Patricia de Lille to institute a project to settle the debt.

Leading the pack is the Free State with R629 million, followed by the Northern Cape with R575m and Limpopo with R422m. The Eastern Cape is said to owe R395m, Gauteng R313m, North West R151m, Mpumalanga R100m, the Western Cape R21m and KwaZulu-Natal R48m. | **MAYIBONGWE MAQHINA**