



**Publication:** Daily News - Main  
**Title:** De Lille gives update on municipal debt  
**Publish date:** 16 Sep 2022  
**Page:** 5

**Reach:** 23508  
**AVE:R** 23033.47  
**Author:** Mwangi Githahu

SERVICES SHORTFALL

# De Lille gives update on municipal debt

**MWANGI GITHAHU**  
mwangi.githahu@inl.co.za

**PUBLIC** Works and Infrastructure Minister Patricia de Lille has said that her department owes R83.3 million to municipalities across the country for municipal services rendered and property rates.

Giving an update on money owed to municipalities by the DPWI, De Lille said the department was waiting for municipalities to provide invoices and payments would be processed as soon as invoices were received.

De Lille said: "The department at all times strives to stay up to date with its payments to municipalities who provide services to government buildings."

She said a sum of R170m said to be owed over and above the R83.3m was being investigated and the department was in the process of performing reconciliation with the municipalities to ensure correct payment.

She said an amount of around R67.2m had been billed as an annual invoice which the department paid on a monthly basis as they did not pay in advance.

Meanwhile, the department said that an amount of just over R12m had been incorrectly billed to the department despite numerous communica-



MINISTER of Public Works and Infrastructure Patricia de Lille. | **ARMAND HOUGH** African News Agency (ANA)

tions with the municipalities.

In a statement, DPWI said: "To address the disputes as under the R12m amount, the DPWI is engaging municipalities to waive the interest linked to properties of other custodians and advising municipalities to direct the invoices to the rightful owners for future payments."

Asked how much the department owed Cape Town, City spokesperson Luthando Tyhalibongo said the City was unable to provide updated

financial figures yesterday but would be in a position to do so today, when the financial report would be completed.

He said that generally the City met with its government debtors on a monthly basis as part of its sound financial management for sustainability efforts.

"There was good co-operation and payments had been made.

"Much work continues by the City to ensure debts are paid," Tyhalibongo said.