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# ELM refutes electricity cut-offs voice-note

**Lerato Serero**

SEDIBENG.- The Emfuleni Local Municipality (ELM) has refuted claims of electricity cut-offs that are doing rounds in the area in a form of a voice-note.

The voice-note in question claims that power supply will soon be switched off for good in all the Eskom supplied areas.

The ELM said that there are no planned power cuts in Sebokeng and other ELM areas supplied by Eskom.

“Emfuleni Local Municipality (ELM) is aware of a voice-note currently circulating on social media about planned power-cuts in the municipality.

“The municipality would like to put it on record that no such correspondence has been received from Eskom and as a result, all of the claims contained in the voice-note are false and must be ignored,” a statement issued by the municipality said. Meanwhile, the ELM urged residents to source service delivery information only from official communication platforms of the municipality, and local electronic and print media.

For further information visit [www.emfuleni.gov.za](http://www.emfuleni.gov.za)

Right: Executive Mayor, Siphso Radebe's ELM has refuted claims of electricity cut-offs in the area. Photo: ELM



# ‘Object to ELM’s misleading property value increase’: DA

**Lerato Serero**

SEDIBENG.- The Democratic Alliance (DA) recently urged local residents to inspect the valuation roll and familiarise themselves with the amount their properties are valued for by Emfuleni Local Municipality (ELM).

The party has further urged residents to voice their objections where there are misrepresentations saying that the reason for this is that the increase in valuation of properties allows ELM to raise rates and taxes. It said that this is also an attempt for the municipality to increase its monthly revenue.

“Although a property may be valued for a certain amount by Emfuleni, that is not necessarily the selling price you will receive for your property.

“Emfuleni Local Municipality can’t guarantee residents the increase in their property value when they want to sell and should rather decrease the current valuation to a market-related value,” said the DA’s Elize Aucamp who added that it is no secret that Emfuleni Local Municipality fails to deliver basic services which also has an impact on the value of these properties, a factor the municipality

seems to be ignoring in their valuation.

“In addition to this, the infrastructure of the municipality is deteriorating daily, which is evident in the state of our roads which are dilapidated, constant power outages, with water and sewage running down our streets.

“DA councillors will be available to assist residents who want to object to the valuation of their properties to get the correct assessment of their properties.”



The Democratic Alliance's (DA) Councillor, Elize Aucamp. Photo: Christiaan Cloete

# More bad blood between ELM and Rand Water?

**Craig Kotze**

SEDIBENG.- A major clash with potential physical confrontation and violence was narrowly averted between the Emfuleni Local Municipality (ELM) and Rand Water over a third bank attachment by the water utility as their top structures hastily met to hammer out a new debt agreement recently.

Bad blood over the years between the two State entities could also derail the slowly-emerging Vaal River and community sewage pollution project - for which Rand Water is the implementing agent but on now-detached ELM wastewater infrastructure.

A top-level crisis meeting nipped a planned motor vehicle convoy blockade and siege of Rand Water Head Office in Glenvista, Johannesburg recently, by angry ELM employees and supporters in the bud, municipal and other sources said.

Other disruptive wildcat protest actions against Rand Water were also being planned by ELM employees and other stakeholders, but not in any official capacity, *Sedibeng Ster's* sister newspaper, *Vaal-weekblad* was told.

Another wildcat blockade would have been the second over the past few years since then ELM Executive Mayor, Jacob Khawe and his entire top management and hundreds of employees drove vehicles to Rand

Water Head Office and blockaded the premises, also over debt default repayments.

Municipal employees, unions and ELM management fear three bank account attachments by Rand Water since December - seizing an estimated R330 million - could result in salaries and contractors not paid at February-month-end and also asset-stripping by Rand Water of municipal infrastructure.

A major driver of tension is the widespread fear in ELM circles that Rand Water will also attach the Sebokeng Waste Water Plant or similar infrastructure thus further incapacitating Metsi-a Lekoa, the ELM water and waste management entity.

However, the danger of asset attach-

ments seems to have subsided due to confusion as to who the real owner of the infrastructure as the waste infrastructure belongs to Gauteng Province and not ELM, said experts.

Organised business has demanded that ELM and Rand Water find a solution to the current crisis and said it was clear the management incompetence of ELM CFO Andile Dyakala was to blame, as with recurring debt

crises with bulk utility providers such as Eskom over the years.

The Golden Triangle Chamber of Commerce (GTCOC) has laid the blame for the crisis at ELM's door. “The ELM CFO Andile Dyakala should have been fired years ago and many investigations against him remain - now we sit with the consequences of a lack of consequence management,” said GTCOC CEO, Klippiess Kritzinger.

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**NOTICE OF A BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014 as amended, a Basic Assessment Report (BAR) and application will be submitted to the Gauteng Department Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD). Notification is hereby given to all Interested and Affected Parties in terms of Sections 39 to 44 of GNIR982 as amended in GNIR326, that an application and BAR will be submitted to the competent authority (GDARD) to apply for environmental authorization for the Proposed development for business purposes including filling station on Portion 62 (a portion of portion 27) of farm Rietspruit 152NR, Midvaal Local Municipality, Sedibeng District Municipality, Gauteng.

**Application:** Proposed development for business purposes including filling station on Portion 62 (a portion of portion 27) of farm Rietspruit 152NR, Midvaal Local Municipality, Sedibeng District Municipality, Gauteng.

**Reference:** GAU/002/21-22/E3 115

**Locality:** Portion 62 (a portion of portion 27) of farm Rietspruit 152NR, Midvaal Local Municipality, Sedibeng District Municipality, Gauteng Province.

**Applicant:** Dabi Investments (Pty) Ltd

**Nature:** The site of 9.0388ha is indicated as being located in Gauteng ENF zone 1 and critically endangered ecosystem. The site will be developed for business purposes - including a taxi rank, retail, medical rooms and filling station (GNR 327 Activity 14 - storage and handling of dangerous goods).

To register as an Interested and Affected Party or to obtain further information regarding the project, contact HydroScience on or before 30 April 2022 via fax or email at:

**HydroScience**  
Person: Paulette Jacobs  
Tel: 082 850 5482  
Fax: 086 692 8820  
E-mail: [paulette@hydroscience.co.za](mailto:paulette@hydroscience.co.za)

Please submit any issues of concern or interest in the matter, in writing, on or before 30 April 2022 by fax or email to the contact person listed above. The report will be available for public review from 1 - 30 April 2022 through electronic channels to registered Interested and Affected Parties requesting such.