

Tokologo Municipality

Newsletter Vol: One

Tokologo Municipality Celebrates Financial Achievement and Local Government Contributions at Prestigious Provincial Awards Dinner

Tokologo Local Municipality is proud to have been honored at the recent Provincial Members Assembly Networking and Award Dinner, held to recognize excellence and progress within Free State municipalities. The Municipality received an esteemed award in the Financial Viability category, a recognition that underscores the significant strides made in improving financial management.

This accolade was granted in light of Tokologo's remarkable achievement in the 2023 municipal financial year, where the Municipality successfully improved its audit status from a repeated disclaimer of audit opinions to a qualified audit opinion. This achievement marks a pivotal turning point in Tokologo's financial governance, showcasing the Municipality's dedication to improving transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility.

The award was accepted by Cllr Seakge,

Mayor of Tokologo Local Municipality, who proudly represented the Municipality at the event. Speaking on behalf of the Municipality, the Mayor expressed gratitude for the recognition and reaffirmed the Municipality's commitment to continuous improvement in service delivery and financial management.

The event, attended by various municipal mayors and speakers from across the province, highlighted several municipalities that have excelled in various sectors, reinforcing the collective drive for progress within Free State. Tokologo's achievement stands as a testament to the hard work and dedication of the entire team working to ensure the Municipality's future stability and growth.

In addition to Tokologo's recognition, the event also served as an opportunity to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to local government. A special



Tokologo Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Boitumelo Seakge receiving a SALGA Award

moment was dedicated to Mr Kopung Ralikontsane, the first Co-CEO of the then FREELOGA, who was celebrated for his lifelong dedication to the local government sector. Mr Ralikontsane, who recently retired, was recognised by the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) for his exceptional service and invaluable role in shaping the local government landscape.

The awards dinner underscored the importance of collaboration, innovation, and the relentless pursuit of excellence in the

public sector. Tokologo Local Municipality continues to strive for excellence in all aspects of governance and looks forward to building on the momentum of these achievements for the benefit of all its residents.

As we celebrate these successes, Tokologo remains committed to enhancing its financial viability and ensuring that it delivers on its promises to the community. Through hard work, transparency, and dedicated leadership, Tokologo is steadily moving towards a brighter future.

Tokologo Municipality Takes Bold Steps to Address R328 Million Eskom Debt



The Acting Premier, Mr Jabu Mbalula, The Minister of Electricity, Dr Kgosientso Ramokgopa, and Tokologo Mayor, Cllr Bitumelo Seakge

On December 5, 2024 in a crucial media briefing held at the Boshoff Town Hall, Tokologo Municipality took decisive steps toward addressing its escalating electricity debt of R328 million owed to Eskom. The event brought together a host of key stakeholders, including the Minister of Electricity and Energy, Dr Kgosientso Ramokgopa, the Executive Mayor of Tokologo

Municipality, Cllr Bitumelo Seakge, the Acting Premier of the Free State, Mr Jabu Mbalula as well as senior representatives from Eskom, and the Municipal Manager.

The meeting, which focused on tackling the mounting electricity debt, marked a significant effort to create a sustainable resolution while reinforcing the municipality's



capacity to manage its electricity services effectively. The presence of high-ranking officials from national, provincial, and local government underscored the gravity of the situation and the collaborative commitment to finding solutions.

The primary focus of the meeting was to explore solutions to the growing debt crisis, emphasising cooperation over legal confrontation. Minister Ramokgopa stressed the need to address the root causes of the debt, while also creating long-term sustainability for the municipality. “We need to ensure that we address the historical issues contributing to the debt, while at the same time looking ahead to create a sustainable future for the municipality’s energy needs,” he said.

Several key resolutions were made during the meeting, aimed at tackling the immediate debt and strengthening Tokologo Municipality’s electricity services

- The South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI) will act as a neutral mediator between Eskom and Tokologo Municipality. SANEDI will play a key role in resolving billing disputes and addressing the growing interest on the debt, working toward a fair resolution for both parties.
- Eskom has agreed to pay the outstanding rates and taxes owed to Tokologo Municipality for its distribution and transmission assets. Technical teams from both Eskom and the municipality will collaborate to assess the value of these assets and finalise the invoicing process.
- Over the next 24 to 36 months, Eskom will work closely with the municipality to bolster its electricity department. This will include improving billing accuracy, enhancing credit control mechanisms, and building technical capacity to ensure efficient and reliable electricity services for the community.
- A forward-thinking initiative was also introduced to address Tokologo’s energy challenges. The municipality will explore the potential of self-generating electricity using renewable resources, with support from both the Minister and the Acting Premier. This initiative aims to reduce the municipality’s dependence on Eskom and create opportunities for revenue generation by selling surplus electricity to the national grid.
- Recognising the broader potential impact, the Acting Premier and Minister Ramokgopa indicated plans to replicate this intervention model in other municipalities across the Free State that are grappling with similar challenges.

This intervention represents a significant milestone in Tokologo Municipality's efforts to address its financial and operational challenges. The resolution of this electricity debt crisis, combined with the innovative energy solutions being explored, could serve as a model for other municipalities facing similar struggles across South Africa.

With strong collaboration between national, provincial, and local stakeholders, the Tokologo Municipality is taking a bold step toward securing a sustainable energy future and providing better services to its community.

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