

New Board of Directors for Magaliesberg Biosphere Reserve

Hartebeespoort Dam –The North West MEC for Rural Environment and Agricultural Development, Manketsi Tlhape appointed Tshepo Modise, Paul Fatti, Paul Bartels, Miriam Modisakeng, Hermien van Schalkwyk, Hein van der Walt, Gerry Comminos, Elizabeth van Niekerk and Andrew William Murray as the new board of directors for the Magaliesberg Biosphere Reserve. With the inauguration ceremony held on Tuesday, 19 July 2016, the nine-member board will serve as a management authority that will provide a strategic- and policy direction for the promotion and sustainable development and utilisation of

the biosphere reserve. In congratulating board members, MEC Tlhape encouraged the management authority to be selfless in their role. "The role of the management authority is to represent numerous interest groups to ultimately promote and sustain development. Management authority members will represent organisation/s by which they are nominated and will therefore not have a seat in their personal capacity and will not represent their personal interests," she highlighted. Members are still to elect the Chairperson of the Board during their formal meeting of the management authority.



Jovial faces as new board members for Magaliesberg Biosphere Reserve accept their appointment.



The North West MEC for Rural Environment and Agricultural Development, Manketsi Tlhape at the inaugural ceremony of new Board of Directors for Magaliesberg Biosphere Reserve.

50% deducted from your pre-paid payment?

Rustenburg – Numerous Rustenburg residents contacted the Platinum Weekly newspaper complaining about their pre-paid payments. When they bought their pre-paid electricity earlier this week, fifty percent (50%) were subtracted from the amount for "arrears deducted". The Platinum Weekly contacted the Rustenburg Local Municipality (RLM) regarding this concern, as arrear deductions are impossible with a pre-paid meter. Thapelo Matebesi, municipal spokesperson telephonically emphasized that "That if definitely incorrect." If this has happened to you, contact or go to the municipality to sort it out.

Matebesi also emailed information regarding the concept of a pre-paid electricity system, explaining that it is the same as the "Pay as you Go" concept on cell phone usage, i.e. load airtime before making a call/load electricity before usage. "From this it is clear that NO ACCOUNT can be issued for any queries on units purchased, Pre-Paid meter installation etc," Matebesi said. Customers can contact the Pre-Paid Section at the unit: Electrical Engineering Services on the c/o Bosch and Zending Street for more information. The only difference between cell phone and electricity pre-paid methods, are that you can choose your billing format on your cell phone i.e. "per second billing or per minute billing". The RLM electricity pre-paid tariff structure is based on a "Inclining Block Tariff" format, commonly known as IBT (the more you use, the more you pay). Therefore, a R100 in the beginning of the month, will result in more electricity units, than R100 paid later that month resulting in less units. The current IBT structure for RLM has four blocks:

- Block 1 (0-50kWh) 84.00c
- Block 2 (51-350kWh) 105.00c
- Block 3 (351-600kWh) 128.00c
- Block 4 (>600kWh) 154.00c

All having different c/kWh rates, simply put, the first 50kWh purchased is charged on a particular rate, the following 351 kWh also on a different one etc. It will be ideal to remember that the one 1 kWh is WORTH Xc/kwh. Important to note: The inclining block tariff cycle starts from zero from the beginning of each month i.e. if the customer is already on block 4 on the 29th of the month and purchases more electricity on that day hoping to use it the following month, they will still be charged on the 4th block. In order to save it is advisable that customers only purchase what they would need for the month and not try to stock pile electricity units as this results in them receiving few units for the same rand value. All conventional meters for small power users (spu) i.e. 100 amps and less, which customers wish to convert to pre-paid meters are "free" for existing connections, while all new connections customers are expected to formally apply for new connections at the Unit: Electrical Engineering Services. It is also critical to remember that 1 conventional meter convention equals 1 pre-paid (any extra meter on a property will be paid for after investigation and approval by the relevant RLM unit). The electricity tariffs for the financial year 2016/17 have been approved by the National Energy Regulator of South Africa on 29 June 2016 for implementation on 1 July 2016. This simply means that all customers on pre-paid electricity have been purchasing electricity on the new tariff from 1 July 2016.

CONSUMER	2015/2016	2016/2017
DOMESTIC (Prepaid and Conventional meters) TOTAL	Current Tariff	APPROVED Tariff
Consumption 0KL to 12KL	9.8855	10.4786
Consumption 13KL to 25KL	11.8388	12.5728
Consumption 26KL to 40KL	13.5713	14.4399
Consumption 41KL to 60KL	15.3615	16.3754
Consumption above 60KL	16.632	17.7630
Domestic consumers with no meter Minimum charge per household per month		63.0970

Water also has a block tariff. The RLM Council approved water tariffs on 31 May 2016 and the tariffs are applicable on the consumption of July 2016. The above amounts excludes VAT.

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