



**TO : HANSARD AND HOUSE BUSINESS**  
**FROM : MEC FOR COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS**  
**SUBJECT : RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS 631 OF IQP 27 FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**631. Mr L Kruger to ask the MEC responsible for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs:**

*With regard to the Electricity and Energy Services Department which falls under the Infrastructure Services Directorate within the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BCMM):*

**PLEASE NOTE** - The names of the Department and Directorate were incorrect on the original document as 'Electrical & Mechanical Services Department' and 'Engineering Services Directorate'. It has been changed to the correct names i.e., 'Electricity & Energy Services Department' and 'Infrastructure Services Directorate'.

QUESTION(S)	ANSWER(S)
1. Whether he can kindly provide the current budget allocation for the Electricity and Energy Services Department versus the total budget allocation;	<p><u>CAPEX 2024/25</u></p> <p>R136,682,671 Own Funds</p> <p>R 25,000,000 ISUPG</p> <p><u>R 12,000,000 USDG</u></p> <p><u>R173,682,671 TOTAL</u></p> <p><u>OPEX 2024/25</u></p> <p>R8,000,000</p> <p><u>OPERATING 2024/25</u></p> <p>R87,888,159</p> <p>REPAIRS &amp; MAINTENANCE 2024/25</p> <p>R69 973 385</p>
2. with the budget allocation for the Electricity and Energy Services Department, how much has been allocated for (a) maintenance of current infrastructure and (b) the installation of new infrastructure;	<p>(a) R69 973 385</p> <p>(b) Ring Fencing 4% - R133,682,671</p>
3. what is the current value of the infrastructure backlog of the municipality;	<p>Backlog to refurbishment, replacement and deferred maintenance</p> <p>LV Network = R180 million</p>

	<p>MV Cable = R200 million</p> <p>MV Switchgear = R170 million</p> <p>HV Network = R15 million</p>
4. noting that the BCMM is facing liquidity and cash flow challenges, what efforts has the municipality made to source funding;	The Electricity & Energy Services Department are forming part of the National Treasury Turnaround Strategy; that has funding for the departments. Further Electricity & Energy Services Department in conjunction with Finance Department have requested funds to implement a meter check program.
5. (a) what is the current loss, in rand value, attributed to illegal electrical connection in total for the municipality and (b) how is the municipality paying the debt;	<p>(a) Illegal connections are not monitored but form part of the recorded non-technical losses. Non-technical losses are 29.42% as at end Dec 24 for a value of R273 918 027 for the six months of the 2024/25 financial period.</p> <p>(b) BCMM pays the Eskom account in full.</p>
6. how many recorded tampered meters and/or illegally bypassed meters does the municipality currently have;	There are 24276 known non-vending prepayment customers whose meters need to be audited for suspected meter tampering/faults.
7. how many server vehicles does the Electricity and Energy Services Department currently have as (a) operational, (b) non-operational and (c) being serviced;	<p>(a) Operational – 8 (1 of Development Contracts &amp; Assets included)</p> <p>(b) Non-Operational - 33</p> <p>(c) Being Serviced – 39</p>
8. whether the municipality can kindly provide a strategy for dealing with illegal electrical connections within identified hotspot areas;	<p>The short-term strategy is the continuous removal of these illegally connected wires and the enforcement of the bylaws.</p> <p>The long-term solution is the increasing of the equitable share value from 50 to 350 kWh's per month and the electrification of these informal areas, with these potential customers receiving 350 kWh's free from the equitable share allocation.</p> <p>NB – The short-term approach is being restricted due to lack of operational budget and resources.</p>

<p>9. (a) what is the vacancy rate with the Electricity and Energy Services Department of the municipality and (b) how many of these vacancies are labeled as critical?</p>	<p>(a) Total No. of Posts : 269 (ALL)</p> <p>Filled : 199 (Operations &amp; Revenue Protection)</p> <p>Vacant : 37 (Operations &amp; Revenue Protection)</p> <p>Moratorium : 33 (Operations &amp; Revenue Protection)</p> <p>(b) Critical:</p> <p><u>1 for Development Contracts &amp; Assets</u> 1 x Engineering Draughtsman</p> <p><u>10 for Operations</u> 1x District Engineer (Coastal) 1x Snr Sup Mains (Inland) 1x Snr Sup Overhead Mains (Coastal) 1x Snr Sup Prot &amp; Cable Test 1x Snr Sup UG Mains (Coastal) 1x Princ Artisan UG Mains (Coastal) 1x Senior Cable Jointer (Inland) 1x Plant Operator (Coastal) 2x Senior Artisans (Inland &amp; Coastal)</p>
---	--