Councillor Sithembiso Ngema

Democratic Alliance

eThekwini Municipality

04 - July - 2025

Mr. Philani Shange

Acting Head: Electricity Department

eThekwini Municipality

Dear Mr. Shange.

Re: Urgent Procurement of Prepaid Electricity Meters

The Democratic Alliance in eThekwini is deeply concern regarding the electricity department's failure to procure prepaid electricity meters for almost two years.

This shortage has resulted in the municipality bypassing meters, leaving residents vulnerable to potential backdated charges. It is unacceptable that the city's inability to manage its infrastructure is placing an undue burden on its citizens.

The Democratic Alliance in eThekwini demands that the municipality takes immediate action to procure prepaid electricity meters. Residents have the right to control their electricity usage according to their financial status, and it is the municipality's responsibility to provide them with the necessary infrastructure to do so.

Furthermore, we call on the municipality to take full responsibility for its failures and not to back charge residents for the consequences of its own incompetence. The residents are not at fault for the lack of prepaid meters; it is the city's failure to plan, procure, and manage its resources effectively.

We also demand that disciplinary actions be taken against those responsible for this failure. It is imperative that accountability is enforced, and those who failed to perform their duties are held responsible.

We expect urgent action from your department to address this issue. We request a detailed plan of action, including a timeline for procurement and installation of prepaid meters, and measures to protect residents from potential backdated charges.

We look forward to your prompt response and resolution to this matter.

Sincerely,

Councillor Sithembiso Ngema

PR Councillor

Democratic Alliance

eThekwini Municipality