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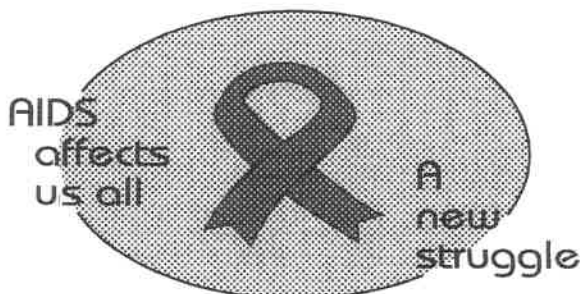
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BISHO/KING WILLIAM'S TOWN

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Contents

<i>No.</i>		<i>Gazette No.</i>	<i>Page No.</i>
	LOCAL AUTHORITY NOTICES • PLAASLIKE OWERHEIDS KENNISGEWINGS		
1145	Local Government: Municipal Systems Act no. 32 of 2000: King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality Credit Control and Debt-Collection By-Law	5142	3

LOCAL AUTHORITY NOTICES • PLAASLIKE OWERHEIDS KENNISGEWINGS

LOCAL AUTHORITY NOTICE 1145 OF 2024



**KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPALITY CREDIT CONTROL
AND DEBT - COLLECTION BY-LAW**

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



The **KING SABATA DALINDYEBO Municipality** hereby makes the following by-law in terms of section 98 (1) of the local government: municipal systems act no. 32 of 2000

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page Number
1. Preamble	4
1.2 Scope of the policy	4
1.3 Objective of the policy	5
2. Definitions	5
3. Principles	9
4. Supervisory Authority	10
5. Implementing Authority	10
6. Unsatisfactory Levels of Indebtedness	11
7. Application for the Provision of Municipal Services	12
8. Deposits and Guarantees	13
9. Accounts and Billing	13
10. Rates and Refuse Charges	14
11. Electricity Charges	14
12. Fire Levy	14
13. Sundry Debtor Accounts	15
14. Final Accounts	15
15. Metering of Municipal Services	15
16. Payments of accounts	16
17. Interest on arrear debt	17
18. Enquiries and appeals	18
19. Disconnection or discontinuation of supply	18
20. Recovery of rates from Owners, Tenants, Occupiers	19
21. Debt Collection	20
22. Arrangements to pay arrear debt	23
23. Indigent debtors	25
24. Debt of Absconded Debtors	26
25. Staff and Councilors - Payment of Arrears	26
26. Administration orders - Payment of arrears	26
27. Write off of irrecoverable debt	26
28. Certificates required for tenders	27

**KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.**



29. Prima facie evidence	27
30. Offences and penalties	27
31. Reporting on performance management	28
32. Income collection target	28
33. Property Management Leases	28
34. Temporary Workers	28
35. Housing	29
36. Power of entry and inspection	30
37. Notices	31
38. Regulations	31
39. Repeal of policy	32
40. Publication of Policy	32
41. Application of the Policy	32
42. Implementation and Review of this Policy	32

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



**KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY PRINCIPLES AND BY
LAW ON CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT COLLECTION**

1. PREAMBLE

WHEREAS section 152 (1) (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996 (*the Constitution*) provides that one of the objects of local government is to ensure that the provision of services to communities occurs in a sustainable manner;

AND WHEREAS section 153 (a) of the Constitution provides that a municipality must structure its administration, budgeting and planning processes to give priority to the basic needs of the community, and to promote the social and economic development of the community;

AND WHEREAS section 195 (1) of the Constitution provides that the public administration must be governed by the democratic values and principles enshrined in the Constitution, including-

- The promotion of the efficient, economic and effective use of resources;
- The provision of services impartially, fairly, equitably and without bias; and
- The fact that people's needs must be responded to.

AND WHEREAS section 4 (1) (c) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 33 of 2000 (*the Systems Act*) provides that the Council of a municipality has the right to finance the affairs of the municipality by charging fees for services, imposing surcharges on fees, rates on property and, to the extent authorised by national legislation, other taxes, levies and duties;

AND WHEREAS section 5 (1) (g), read with subsection (2) (b) of the Systems Act provides that members of the local community have the right to have access to municipal services which the municipality provides provided that, where applicable and subject to the policy for indigent debtors, pay promptly for services fees, surcharges on fees, other taxes, levies and duties imposed by the municipality;

AND WHEREAS section 6 (2) (c), (e) and (f) of the Systems Act provides that the administration of a municipality must take measures to prevent corruption; give members of a local community full and accurate information about the level and standard of municipal services that they are entitled to receive; and inform the local community about how the municipality is managed, of the costs involved and the persons in charge;

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



AND WHEREAS Chapter 9, sections 95, 96, 97, 98, 99 and 100, of the Systems Act provides for Customer Care Management, Debt Collection responsibility of the Municipality, contents of the policy, policies that give effect to the policy, Supervisory authority and Implementing authority, respectively.

1.1 Scope Of The By-law

This by-law applies throughout the Municipality's area of jurisdiction in respect of any—

- (a). amounts billed and payable to the Municipality for rates or the provision of any municipal service;
- (b). amounts billed and payable to any service provider of the Municipality in respect of any municipal service provided by the service provider concerned on behalf of the Municipality, and
- (c). any other monetary amounts owing to the Municipality.
- (b) The Credit Control & Debt Collection policy as approved by Council, has been enshrined in a Municipal policy in terms of the Local Government: Municipal System Act No. 32 of 2000 and such Policy will be binding on the public, officials and Councilors of the Local Municipality of King Sabata Dalindyebo and no interference in the process will be permitted.
- (c) The Policy is applicable until such time as it is reviewed and any revisions to the Policy approved by Council.
- (d) All acts performed in terms of the above approved Policy, will not be invalidated due to the timing differences between approval and promulgation.
- (e) All acts performed as mentioned in the previous paragraph will be ratified with the promulgation of the Municipal Policy.

1.2 Objective Of The By-law

The objects of this By-law are to:-

- (a) give effect to the Municipality's Policy, and its implementation and enforcement in terms of section 156(2) of the Constitution read with sections 96 and 98 of the Systems Act;
- (b) provide for the collection of monies due and payable to the Municipality; and
- (c) provide for matters incidental thereto.

The objects of this By-law are to—

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



- (a) give effect to the Municipality's Policy, and its implementation and enforcement in terms of section 156(2) of the Constitution read with sections 96 and 98 of the Systems Act;
- (b) provide for the collection of monies due and payable to the Municipality; and
- (c) provide for matters incidental thereto.
- (d) Provide for a common credit control, debt collection and indigent Policy throughout the King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality.

2. DEFINITIONS

In this policy any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, has that meaning, unless the context, indicates otherwise-

"Act" means the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act 32 of 2000), as amended from time to time;

"Credit control & debt collections" means owners and/or occupiers of residential property where the combined municipal value of the land and buildings or the vacant land value of such property is equal to, or less than, the values determined by resolution of the Council;

"Credit Control & Debt Collection person" means a person who meets criteria on qualification for credit control & debt collection support

"Account" means an account rendered specifying charges for municipal services provided by the municipality, or any authorised and contracted service provider, and which account may include assessment rates levies;

"Arrangement" means a written agreement entered into between the municipality and the debtor where specific repayment parameters are agreed to, and where necessary are subject to the National Credit Act.

"Arrears" means those rates and service charges that have not been paid by the due date and for which no arrangement has been made.

"Authorised representative" means a person or instance legally appointed by the municipality to act or to fulfill a duty on its behalf.

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



"Billing date" means the date upon which the monthly statement is generated and debited to the customer's account.

"Business premises" means premises utilised for purposes other than residential and excludes the following:-

- (a) hospitals, clinics and institutions for mentally ill persons which are not operated for gain;
- (b) museums, art galleries, libraries and botanical gardens which are registered in the names of private persons and are open to the public, whether admission fees are charged or not;
- (c) sports grounds used for the purpose of amateur sports and any social activities which are connected with such sports;
- (d) any property registered in the name of an institution or organisation which, in the opinion of the municipality performs charitable work;
- (e) any property utilised for bona fide church or religious purposes.

"Chief Financial Officer" means the person appointed as the Chief Financial Officer of the municipality, or his or her nominee.

"Credit control" means all the functions relating to the collection of monies owed by ratepayers and the users of municipal services.

"Consolidated account" means an account which is a consolidation of any separate accounts of a person who is liable for payment to the municipality.

"Council" means the Council of the King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality.

"Customer" means the occupier of any premises to which the municipality has agreed to supply or is actually supplying municipal services, or if no occupier can be identified or located, then the owner of the premises and includes any debtor of the municipality.

"Day/Days" means calendar days, inclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

"Defaulter" means any person who owes arrears to the municipality.

"Delivery date" shall mean the date on which the periodic account is delivered to the consumer or 3 days after the date the account was posted, whichever is the first.

"Due date" in relation to -

- (a) rates due in respect of any immovable property, means:-

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



- (i) the thirtieth (30th) day of September of the financial year for which such rate is made, in the case where rates are levied on an annual basis;
 - (ii) the date for payment indicated on the account, in the case where rates are levied on a monthly basis; or
 - (iii) any other date determined by Council in terms of a public notice in the Provincial Gazette, and
- (b) service charges due in respect of any immovable property, means the date for payment indicated on the account, provided that the due date for refuse charges means the thirtieth (30th) day of September in the case where refuse charges are levied annually; and
- (c) should such day fall on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday the due date shall be the next working day.

"Immovable property" includes -

- (a) an undivided share in immovable property, and
- (b) any right in immovable property.

"Implementing authority" means the Municipal Manager or his or her nominee, acting in terms of section 100 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act No. 32 of 2000.

"Indigent debtor" means:-

- (a) the head of an indigent household:-
 - (i) who applied for and has been declared indigent in terms of Council's Indigent Support Policy for the provision of services from the municipality; and
 - (ii) who applied for indigent support in terms of Council's Indigent Support Policy on behalf of all members of his or her household;
- (b) orphaned minor children duly represented by their legal and/or de facto guardians.

"Indigent Support Programme" means a structured program for the provision of indigent support subsidies to qualifying indigent debtors in terms of the Council's Indigent Support Bylaw.

"Indigent Support Policy" means the Indigent Support Policy adopted by the Council of the municipality.

"Interest" means the charge levied on arrears, calculated as the prime rate,

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



charged by the bank which holds the municipality's primary bank account, plus one percent or such other percentage as may be determined by Council from time to time.

"Manager Income" Means the official of the municipality responsible for the collection of monies owed to the municipality and/or any other official to whom he/she has delegated duties and responsibilities in terms of this policy.

"Month" means a calendar month.

"Monthly average consumption" means the monthly average consumption in respect of that property calculated on the basis of consumption over the preceding.

"Municipality" means the Municipal Council of the King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality or any duly authorised Committee, political office bearer or official.

"Municipal pay point" means any municipal office in the area of jurisdiction of the municipality designated by Council for such purposes, or any such other places as the Chief Financial Officer may from time to time designate.

"Municipal Manager" means the Municipal Manager of the King Sabata Dalindyebo municipality or his or her nominee acting in terms of power delegated to him or her by the said Municipal Manager with the concurrence of the Council.

"Municipal services" means services provided either by the municipality, or by an external agent on behalf of the municipality in terms of a service delivery agreement.

"Occupier" means the person who controls and resides on or controls and otherwise uses immovable property, provided that:-

- (a) the husband or wife of the owner of immovable property which is at any time used by such owner and husband or wife as a dwelling, shall be deemed to be the occupier thereof;
- (b) where a husband and wife both reside on immovable property and one of them is an occupier thereof; the other shall also be deemed to be an occupier thereof.

"Owner" in relation to immovable property means -

- (a) the person in whom is vested the legal title thereto provided that-
 - (i) the lessee of immovable property which is leased for a period of not less than thirty years, whether the lease is registered or not, shall be deemed to be the owner thereof;

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



- (ii) the occupier of immovable property occupied under a service servitude or right analogous thereto, shall be deemed to be the owner thereof;
- (b) if the owner is dead or insolvent or has assigned his or her estate for the benefit of his creditors, has been placed under curatorship by order of court or is a company being wound up or under judicial management, the person in whom the administration of such property is vested as executor, administrator, trustee, assignee, curator, liquidator or judicial manager, as the case may be, shall be deemed to be the owner thereof;
- (c) if the owner is absent from the Republic or if his address is unknown to the municipality, any person who as agent or otherwise receives or is entitled to receive the rent in respect of such property, or
 - (i) if the municipality is unable to determine who such person is, the person who is entitled to the beneficial use of such property.

"Premises" includes any piece of land, the external surface boundaries of which are delineated on:

- (a) A general plan or diagram registered in terms of the Land Survey Act, (9 of 1927) or in terms of the Deed Registry Act, 47 of 1937; or
- (b) A sectional plan registered in terms of the Sectional Titles Act, 95 of 1986, and which is situated within the area of jurisdiction of the municipality.
- (c) A register held by a tribal authority.

"Prescribed" means prescribed by this policy and where applicable by Council or the Municipal Manager.

"Prescribed debt" means debt that becomes extinguished by prescription in terms of the Prescription Act 68 of 1969.

"Person" means a natural and juristic person, including any department of state, statutory bodies or foreign embassies.

"Rates" means a municipal rate on property envisaged in section 229 (1) of the Constitution.

"Refuse charges" means service charges in respect of the collection and disposal of refuse.

"Registered owner" means that person, natural or juristic, in whose name the property is registered in terms of the Deeds Registry Act, no. 47 of 1937.

"Responsible person" means any person other than the registered owner of an immovable property who is legally responsible for the payment of municipal

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



service charges.

"Service charges" means the fees levied by the municipality in terms of its tariff policy for any municipal services rendered in respect of an immovable property and includes any penalties, interest or surcharges levied or imposed in terms of this policy.

"Service delivery agreement" means an agreement between the municipality and an institution or persons mentioned in section 76(b) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000.

"Sundry debtor accounts" means accounts raised for miscellaneous charges for services provided by the municipality or charges that were raised against a person as a result of an action by a person, and were raised in terms of Council's policies, bylaws and decisions

"Supervisory authority" means the Executive Mayor of the municipality or his or her nominee, acting in terms of Section 99 of the Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000.

"Tariff" means the scale of rates, taxes, duties, levies or other fees which may be imposed by the municipality in respect of immovable property or for municipal services provided.

"Tariff Policy" means a Tariff Policy adopted by the Council in terms of Section 74 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000.

"User" means the owner or occupier of a property in respect of which municipal services are being rendered.

Interpretation of By-law

- (1) If there is a conflict of interpretation between the English version of this By-law and a translated version, the English version prevails.
- (2) This By-law must be read in conjunction with the Policy.
- (3) Where there is a conflict between this By-law and another By-law of the Municipality, this By-law prevails over the affected provision of the other By-law in respect of any credit control and debt collection matter.

3. PRINCIPLES

This By-law must be read in conjunction with the Policy.(3)Where there is a conflict between this By-law and another By-law of the Municipality, this By-law prevails over the affected provision of the other By-law in respect of any credit control and debt collection matter.

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



The principles of credit management in the municipality are: -

1. The administrative integrity of the municipality must be maintained at all times.
2. This policy must have the full support of Councillors.
3. Councillors must have full knowledge of the implementation and enforcement of customer care, credit control, debt collection and Indigent Support by- law.
4. The Executive Mayor oversees and monitors the implementation and enforcement of this policy.
5. The Municipal Manager implements and enforces this policy.
6. The Municipal Manager may delegate the implementation and enforcement of this policy to the Chief Financial Officer who may in turn delegate duties and responsibilities in terms of this policy to the Manager Income.
7. Consumers must be informed of the contents of this policy.
8. Consumers must apply for services from the municipality by the completion of the prescribed application form.
9. Consumers must receive regular and accurate accounts that indicate the basis for calculating the amounts due. The consumer is entitled to have the details of the account explained upon request.
10. Consumers must pay their accounts regularly by the due date.
11. Consumers are entitled to reasonable access to pay points and to a variety of reliable payment methods.
12. Consumers are entitled to an efficient, effective and reasonable response to appeals, and should not suffer any disadvantage during the processing of a reasonable appeal.
13. Debt collection action will be instituted promptly, consistently, and effectively without exception and with the intention of proceeding until the debt is collected.
14. It shall be the duty of all consumers to ensure that they have the correct information regarding all due amounts.

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



4. SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY

- (1) The Executive Mayor oversees and monitors -
 - (a) The implementation and enforcement of the municipality's credit control and debt collection policy.
 - (b) The performance of the Municipal Manager in implementing the credit control and debt collection policy.
- (2) The Executive Mayor shall at least once a year cause an evaluation or review of the credit control and debt collection policy to be performed, in order to improve the efficiency of the municipality's credit control and debt collection mechanisms, processes and procedures, as well as the implementation of this policy.
- (3) The Executive Mayor shall submit a report to Council regarding the implementation of the credit control and debt collection policy at such intervals as Council may determine.

5. IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY

- (1) The Municipal Manager:-
 - (a) Implements and enforces the credit control and debt collection policy.
 - (b) Is accountable to the Executive Mayor for the enforcement of the policy and shall submit a report to the Executive Mayor regarding the implementation and enforcement of the credit control and debt collection policy at such intervals as may be determined by Council.
 - (c) Must establish effective administration mechanisms, processes and procedures to collect money that is due and payable to the municipality.
 - (d) Where necessary make recommendations to the Executive Mayor with the aim of improving the efficiency of the credit control and debt collection mechanisms, processes and procedures.

**KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.**



- (e) Establish effective communication between the municipality and account holders with the aim of keeping account holders abreast of all decisions by Council that may affect account holders.
 - (f) Establish customer service centers, located in such communities as determined by the municipal manager.
 - (g) Convey to account holders information relating to the costs involved in service provision, and how funds received for the payment of services are utilised, and may where necessary employ the services of local media to convey such information.
- (2) The Municipal Manager may, in writing, delegate any of the powers entrusted or delegated to him or her in terms of Council's credit control and debt collection policy to the Chief Financial Officer.
- (3) A delegation in terms of subsection (2) -
- (a) Is subject to any limitations or conditions that the Municipal Manager may impose;
 - (b) May authorise the Chief Financial Officer in writing, to sub-delegate duties and responsibilities to the Manager Income.
 - (c) The delegation does not divest the Municipal Manager of the responsibility concerning the exercise of the delegated power.
 - (d) The Chief Financial Officer is accountable to the Municipal Manager for the implementation, enforcement and administration of this policy, and the general exercise of his powers in terms of this policy.
- (4) The Manager Income shall be accountable to the Chief Financial Officer for the sections of this policy delegated to the Manager Income in terms of the MFMA section 82.

6. UNSATISFACTORY LEVELS OF INDEBTEDNESS

- (1) If the level of indebtedness in a particular ward or part of the Municipality exceeds the level of the acceptable norm as determined in the Municipality's budget guidelines, the supervisory authority (Executive Mayor) must, without delay, advise the Councillor for that ward or part.

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



(2) The Councillor concerned:-

Must without delay convene a meeting of the ward committee, if there is one, or convene a public meeting and report the matter to the committee or meeting for discussion and advice; and may make any appropriate recommendations to the supervisory authority.

7. APPLICATION FOR THE PROVISION OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES

- (1) A consumer who requires the provision of municipal services must apply for the service from the municipality.
- (2) The application for the provision of municipal services must be made by the registered owner of an immovable property.
- (3) The municipality will not entertain an application for the provision of municipal services from a tenant of a property, or any other person who is not the owner of the property.
- (4) The only exception to (3) above is that individuals and businesses with lease agreements to lease properties from the municipality and government departments will be allowed to open an account in the name of the lessee of the property
- (5) An agent may, with a proxy, open an account in the name of the owner.
- (6) The application for the provision of municipal services must be made in writing on the prescribed application form that is provided by the municipality.
- (7) By completing the prescribed application form for the provision of municipal services the consumer of services enters into an agreement with the municipality.
- (8) The agreement with the municipality makes provision for the following: -
 - (a) An undertaking by the owner that he or she will be liable for collection costs including administration fees, interest, disconnection and reconnection costs, and any other legal costs occasioned by his or her failure to settle accounts by the due date on an attorney / client basis;

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



- (b) An acknowledgement by the owner that accounts will become due and payable by the due date notwithstanding the fact that the owner did not receive the account; and
 - (c) That the onus will be on the owner to ensure that he or she is in possession of an account before the due date.
 - (d) An undertaking by the municipality that it shall do everything in its power to deliver accounts timeously.
- (9) The application for the provision of municipal services shall be made at least ten (10) days prior to the date on which the services are required to be connected.
- (10) On receipt of the application for provision of municipal services, the municipality will cause the reading of metered services linked to the property to be taken on the working day preceding the date of occupation.
- (11) The first account for services will be rendered after the first meter reading cycle to be billed following the date of signing the service agreement.
- (12) No plans will be approved where a is in arrears
- (13) In terms of legislation the Municipality will under normal circumstances not issue a clearance certificate on any property unless all outstanding amounts are paid to date.

8. DEPOSITS AND GUARANTEES

- (1) On application for the provision of municipal services the consumer deposit prescribed by council shall be paid.
- (2) A guarantee in lieu of a deposit will be accepted on application for the provision of municipal services by a business in terms of the prevailing conditions determined by the Municipal Manager at the time of the application.
- (3) Existing consumers moving to a new address are required to pay the prescribed consumer deposit on application for the provision of municipal services at the new address. Where there is no consumption of municipal

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



services on premises, an availability fee determined by the Municipality may be raised in respect of the property concerned.

- (4) The minimum deposit payable is determined at the time of application for a new or current service by multiplying the notified maximum demand (KVA) by tariff rate of KVA and is contained in the tariff book produced annually.
- (5) The consumer deposit paid on application for the provision of municipal services must be reviewed annually and may be increased upon written notice to consumers. The deposit will be the equivalent of three month's charge for all municipal services supplied, however this may be increased if it is determined that the consumer is a credit risk.
- (6) Deposits paid by a customer to the Municipality shall be held as a consolidated deposit and used as security for any or all amounts owed by the customer as included in the account.
- (7) On termination of the supply of services the amount of the deposit less any payment due to the municipality will be refunded to an account holder, provided that payments due are less than the deposit paid, and that the account holder has provided a forwarding address.
- (8) If the chief financial officer intends to increase the minimum deposit payable by the owner, then he or she shall increase the amount in the tariff book.
- (9) The chief financial officer may, in respect of business premises, accept an irrevocable bank guarantee in lieu of a deposit.
- (10) Deposits paid by a customer to the Municipality shall be held as a consolidated deposit and used as security for any or all amounts owed by the customer as included in the account.

9. ACCOUNTS AND BILLING

Service agreement between the Municipality and a customer

1. The Municipality may not approve an application for the provision of any municipal service, unless the applicant has signed an agreement on a form determined by the Municipality for that purpose accepting the terms and conditions for the provision of such service, all of which are deemed to be incorporated into this By-law

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



2. Where the purpose for or extent to which any municipal service used has changed, the onus and obligation rests on the customer to advise the Municipality of such change.
3. The municipality shall provide all customers with a monthly consolidated account for municipal service rendered, which account shall be generated on a monthly basis in cycles of approximately thirty (30) days.
4. The monthly consolidated account can include property rates charges, in which case they shall comply with section 27 of the Municipal Property Rates Act No. 6 of 2004.
5. All accounts rendered by the municipality shall be payable on the due date.
6. Account balances which remain unpaid 30 days after the due date shall attract interest on arrears, irrespective of the reasons for non-payment.
7. All accounts are payable as above, regardless of the fact that the customer has not received the account, the onus being on the customer to obtain a copy of the account before the due date.

Deposits

- (1) The payment of a deposit mentioned is subject to the criteria determined by the CFO in accordance with the Policy and is due and payable at—
 - (a) the time of application for municipal services; and
 - (b) any other time deemed necessary by the Municipality.
- (2) Payment of a deposit must be made in cash unless otherwise provided for in terms of the Policy.
- (3) Where there is no consumption of municipal services on premises, an availability fee determined by the Municipality may be raised in respect of the property concerned.
- (4) Deposits paid by a customer to the Municipality shall be held as a consolidated deposit and used as security for any or all amounts owed by the customer as included in the account.
- (5) The Municipality may in its discretion by due notice to a customer, require a customer to increase the deposit furnished.
- (6) No interest on cash deposits held by the Municipality shall accrue to the customer.

5.

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



4. RATES, REFUSE CHARGES AND RENTALS

- (1) Rates, refuse charges and rentals shall be billed annually or monthly, as agreed between the municipality and the customer.
- (2) Property rates and refuse charges which are levied annually shall be billed in terms of the July account of each year.
- (3) Property rates, refuse charges and rentals which are levied on a monthly basis shall be billed in terms of monthly accounts.
- (4) The tariffs to calculate property rates, refuse charges and rentals are determined annually, approved by Council and contained in the tariff book produced by the municipality.

5. ELECTRICITY CHARGES

- (1) The provisions of this policy, in respect of the supply of electricity to a customer, shall constitute the payment conditions of the municipality as licensee, contemplated in section 21(5) of the Electricity Regulation Act No. 4 of 2006.
- (2) Service charges in respect of electricity shall be determined in accordance with metered consumption.
- (3) Monthly accounts shall be rendered for electricity consumption and the customer shall effect payment thereof by the due date.
- (4) The tariffs to calculate the electricity charges are determined annually, approved by Council and contained in the tariff book prepared and kept by the municipality.

6. FIRE LEVY

- (1) Owners and occupiers shall be charged a fire levy, as determined annually, approved by Council and contained in the tariff book prepared and kept by the municipality.

**KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.**



- (2) The fire levy shall be charged monthly in terms of the consolidated account produced by the municipality.
- (3) The municipality may enter into service level agreements with neighbouring municipalities to allow for the recovery of costs for the provision of fire prevention and fire fighting services to these municipalities.

7. SUNDRY DEBTOR ACCOUNTS

- (1) Sundry debtor accounts may be rendered by the municipality from time to time.
- (2) Any sundry debtor account shall be included in the monthly consolidated account produced by the municipality.

8. FINAL ACCOUNTS

- (1) Upon receipt of a customer's application for the termination of municipal services, the municipality shall –
 - (a) take final readings in respect of metered municipal services;
 - (b) prepare and render a final account;
 - (c) appropriate the consumer deposit for the reduction or settlement of any outstanding amount owed by the customer; and
 - (d) refund the consumer deposit to the customer in the event that no amount is owed to the municipality.
 - (e) Terminate the service on the date appointed or agreed for termination.

9. METERING OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES

- (1) The municipality may introduce various metering equipment and may encourage consumers to convert to a system which is preferred by the Council when Council considers this to be beneficial to its functioning and operations.

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



- (2) Council's preferred metering system to measure electricity is the prepayment electricity metering system for domestic consumers and for certain businesses.
- (3) Electricity consumption is measured with conventional and prepaid electricity meters.
- (4) The following applies to the reading of credit meters: -
 - (a) Conventional electricity meters are read in cycles of approximately 30 days.
 - (b) If for any reason the credit electricity meters cannot be read, the municipality will render an account based on estimated consumption.
 - (c) The account based on estimated consumption will be adjusted in the subsequent account based on the actual consumption.
 - (d) The consumer is responsible to ensure access to metering equipment for the purpose of obtaining meter readings for billing purposes.
 - (e) Consumers can, for reasons of non-accessibility to their properties by meter readers, provide the municipality with monthly meter readings for billing purposes, provided that an audit reading can be obtained by the municipality once every six months and provided that a final reading can be obtained should the consumer vacate the property.
 - (f) If any calculation, reading or metering error is discovered in respect of any account rendered to a consumer-
 - (i) such error shall be corrected in the subsequent account,
 - (ii) any such correction shall only apply in respect of an account for a period of three years preceding the date on which the error in the account was discovered,
 - (iii) the correction shall be based on the tariffs applicable during the period, and
 - (iv) the application of this section shall not prevent a consumer from claiming overpayment for any longer period where the consumer is able to prove the claim in a court of law.

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



- (g) When a consumer vacates a property and a final reading of the meter is not possible, an estimation of the consumption may be made and the final account rendered accordingly.
- (5) The following applies to prepayment metering: -
 - (a) Prepaid electricity is purchased at prepayment vending points for consumption after the date of purchase.
 - (b) Amounts tendered for the purchase of prepaid electricity will not be refunded after the prepaid meter voucher has been produced.
 - (c) On request of the consumer copies of the previous prepaid meter vouchers will be produced.
 - (d) Credits remaining in the prepayment meter will not be refunded when a premises is vacated by a consumer.
 - (e) The municipality shall not be liable for the reinstatement of credit in a prepaid meter due to tampering with, or the incorrect use or the abuse of prepayment meters.
 - (f) The Municipal Manager at his sole discretion after considering aspects such as security and consumer considerations may appoint vendors for the sale of prepaid electricity but does not guarantee the continued operation of any vendor.
 - (g) The municipality may apply all the debt collection functions available on the prepayment system to collect all arrear debt on the account on the property.

10. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

- (1) All accounts rendered by the municipality are due and payable on the due date.
- (2) All payments, whether made by cash, stop order, electronic payments or payments made through agents must be receipted by the municipality by

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



the close of business on the due date. Save that the cheque be banked "Guaranteed". Where a cheque has been dishonoured the person issuing the cheque shall not be allowed to pay by cheque in future.

- (3) Accounts rendered by the municipality can be paid at any municipal cashier office and any other pay point as determined by the Municipal Manager from time to time.
- (4) The payment methods and facilities supported by the municipality can be used to make payments on accounts.
- (5) Payments received in respect of rates and service charges will be allocated by the municipality entirely within its discretion, on the account of the debtor.
- (6) Part payment received on an account shall be allocated firstly to reduce any penalty charges that may have accrued on the account.

A 10% discount shall be granted to all up to date household debtors on early settlement of their accounts.

11. INTEREST ON ARREAR DEBT

- (1) Account balances which remain unpaid after the due date shall attract interest irrespective of the reason for non-payment.
- (2) The following categories of arrear debt shall not attract interest on arrears: -
 - (a) Indigent debt.
 - (b) Closed accounts.
 - (c) Deceased estates.
 - (d) Insolvent estates.
 - (e) Debtors under administration (administration portion only).
 - (f) The first 30 days after delivery date for all service arrears.
- (3) Interest on arrear debt shall be calculated for each month for which such payment remains unpaid and part of a month shall be deemed to be a month.

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



- (4) Interest may be charged on all overdue accounts at an interest rate that shall be determined by Council from time to time. The interest rate shall be the Prime Bank interest rate plus 1 %.
- (5) No interest shall be charged on any outstanding amounts in respect of which an agreement had been concluded for the payment by way of installment thereof, provided the installment is paid in full by the due date.
- (6) Interest charged on arrear debt will be reversed upon settlement of an account in conformity with the Municipality's incentive policy. (Two previous financial years including current financial year)

12. ENQUIRIES AND APPEALS

- (1) Any aggrieved person may address a grievance or query regarding charges for municipal services to the Chief Financial Officer in writing or may visit any customer care office provided by the municipality.
- (2) Every consumer has the right to ask and to be provided with a clear explanation as to the services being charged and a breakdown of all amounts shown on their account.
- (3) The aggrieved person shall clearly state the basis of his or her dissatisfaction and the desired resolution.
- (4) The lodging of an inquiry shall not relieve the aggrieved person of the responsibility to settle his or her account. An interim payment similar to an average account must be paid by the due date pending finalisation of the enquiry.
- (5) The municipality will respond to all inquiries from consumers in writing within twenty days from the lodging of the enquiry.
- (6) The Manager Income will keep custody of the Enquiries and Appeals Register and will carry out a weekly check on all enquiries and appeals yet to be resolved.

13. DISCONNECTION OR DISCONTINUATION OF SUPPLY

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



- (1) An account rendered to a customer by the municipality in respect of rates or municipal services, including the collection and disposal of refuse, shall be paid by the due date.
- (2) The municipality must permit the customer to make representations prior to the disconnection or discontinuation of the supply of electricity, unless -
 - (a) other users will be prejudiced;
 - (b) there is an emergency situation; or
 - (c) the customer has interfered with a limited, disconnected or discontinued electricity supply.
- (3) If the customer fails to pay any account within a period of fourteen (14) days after the expiry of the due date, then -
 - (a) without further notice, the municipality may disconnect or discontinue the supply of electricity to the immovable property in question; and
 - (b) the chief financial officer or any duly authorised person may instruct attorneys to recover the outstanding amounts.
- (4) The disconnection or discontinuation of the supply of electricity shall be effected in the manner that is customarily used or by taking such reasonable and lawful steps as may be necessary.
- (5) Any disbursements or charges incurred or raised in respect of the disconnection or discontinuation of the supply of electricity shall be paid by the customer.
- (6) If a customer unlawfully reconnects or attempts to reconnect a supply of electricity that has been limited, disconnected or discontinued, then -
 - (a) the municipality may disconnect or discontinue the supply entirely by removing the service connection from the premises; and
 - (b) any disbursements, penalties or reconnection charges, together with any outstanding amounts owed in respect of rates or municipal services, must be paid in full before a reconnection can be made.

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



- (7) Subject to the provisions of this policy, the chief financial officer or any person duly authorised thereto may enter into an arrangement with a defaulter for the payment of an outstanding account, in which event -
 - (a) payment may be made by way of instalments, provided that these shall be effected in terms of debit orders; and
 - (b) the normal supply of electricity to the premises shall be resumed.
- (8) In the case of a debtor who applied for indigent subsidy, when the account of such debtor is outstanding and his or her electricity supply has been disconnected or discontinued, the chief financial officer or any person duly authorised thereto may enter into an arrangement in terms of which the debtor effects immediate payment of at least five percent (5%)
- (9) Any defaulter who enters into a bona fide arrangement with the municipality for the settlement of arrears, and who fails to honour the terms of such arrangement, shall not be allowed to enter into any further arrangement with the municipality.
- (10) In the case of a customer where the supply of electricity has been limited, disconnected or discontinued at least twice during the preceding period of twelve (12) months, the municipality may review the amount of the consumer deposit required from such customer.

14. RECOVERY OF RATES FROM OWNERS, TENANTS, OCCUPIERS AND AGENTS

- (1) The municipality may utilise the procedures prescribed in terms of section 19 to recover rates arrears from the owner of immovable property.
- (2) Any disconnection or discontinuation of the electricity supply, for the purposes of sub-section (1), shall be effected subject to the requirements contained in section 19.
- (3) Alternatively to sub-section (1), above, the municipality may recover rates arrears in whole or in part from a tenant or occupier of the immovable property, despite any contractual obligation to the contrary on the tenant or

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



- occupier. The municipality may recover an amount only after the municipality has served a written notice on the tenant or occupier.
- (4) The amount the municipality may recover from the tenant or occupier of a property is limited to the amount of rent or other money due and payable, but not yet paid, by the tenant or occupier to the owner of the property.
 - (5) Any amount the municipality recovers from the tenant or occupier of the property must be set off by the tenant or occupier against any money owed by the tenant or occupier to the owner.
 - (6) The tenant or occupier of a property must, on request by the municipality, furnish the municipality with a written statement specifying all payments to be made by the tenant or occupier to the owner of the property for rent or other money payable on the property during a period determined by the municipality.
 - (7) The municipality may, despite the Estate Agents Affairs Act 1976, recover the amount due for rates on a property in whole or in part from the agent of the owner, if this is more convenient for the municipality.
 - (8) The municipality may recover the amount due for rates from the agent of the owner only after it has served a written notice on the agent.
 - (9) The amount the municipality may recover from the agent is limited to the amount of any rent or other money received by the agent on behalf of the owner, less any commission due to the agent.
 - (10) The agent must, on request by the municipality, furnish the municipality with a written statement specifying all payments for rent on the property and any other money received by the agent on behalf of the owner during a period determined by the municipality.
 - (11) The municipality must provide an owner of a property in its jurisdiction with copies of accounts sent to the occupier of the property for municipal services supplied to the property if the owner requests such accounts in writing from the municipality.

15. DEBT COLLECTION

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



(1) Handover of debt to debt collectors

- (a) Debt that could not be collected by the disconnection of electricity supply to a property, as well as being blocked from the purchase of prepayment electricity, and that are 60 days old may be handed over to debt collectors.
- (b) Handover to debt collectors is a pre-legal action and if the debt collectors are unsuccessful in collecting the debt, the debt may be handed over to attorneys for legal collection.
- (c) Only the Municipal Manager will hand debt over to attorneys for legal collection.
- (d) The following types of debt will be handed over to the debt collectors: -
 - (i) Debt that is 60 days and older.
 - (ii) The amount of the debt per debtor to be handed over is the amount that will be determined from time to time.
 - (iii) Debt for which no payment arrangements were made.
- (e) The following types of debt will not be handed over to debt collectors.
 - (i) Debts of indigent debtors that are registered as indigent at the date of handover.
 - (ii) Government debt.
 - (iii) Debt that is being paid off as per an arrangement with the debtor.
- (f) The process of collecting debt by debt collectors includes: -
 - (i) Phoning of debtors.
 - (ii) Sending out demand letters.
 - (iii) Making arrangements with debtors to settle debt in terms of the Council's credit control and debt collection policy
 - (iv) Follow-up contact with debtors on unpaid arrangements.

(2) Handover of debt to Attorneys for legal collection

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



- (a) Debt that could not be collected by the debt collectors and debt that requires urgent legal attention will be handed over to attorneys for legal collection.
- (b) The following types of debt will be handed over to attorneys: -
- (i) Debt that is 90 days and older.
 - (ii) The amount of the debt per debtor to be handed over is the amount that will be determined from time to time.
 - (iii) Debt for which no payment arrangements were made.
- (c) The following types of debt will not be handed over to attorneys:-
- (i) Debt of approved indigent debtors that has not yet been written off by the council.
 - (ii) Debt that is being paid off as per an arrangement with the debtor.
- (d) The process of legal collection includes:-
- (i) Final demands for payment to debtors.
 - (ii) Emolument attachment orders on debtor's salaries.
 - (iii) Summons issued for debt to be paid.
 - (iv) Default judgment to be obtained against the debtor.
 - (v) The attachment of moveable properties and sale in execution of moveable property
 - (vi) The attachment of immoveable property and the sale of immoveable property.
- (3) Withholding or offsetting grants-in-aid.
- (a) The municipality provides annual grants-in-Aid to Institutions on application. If an institution is in arrear with its services account, then the municipality will withhold the grant-in-aid or the grant-in-aid will be off set against the arrear debt with the municipality.
- (4) Section 118 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act No 32 of 2000.

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



- (a) The municipality will issue a certificate required for the transfer of immovable property in terms of Section 118 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act No 32 of 2000, which is lodged with the municipality in the prescribed manner. This is subject to all amounts that became due in connection with that property **owing by the owner thereof** for municipal service fees, surcharges on fees, property rates and other municipal taxes, levies and duties during the two years preceding the date of application for the certificate, have been fully paid.
- (b) Debt older than two years on the property owing by the owner will also have to be paid by the owner before the transfer of the property can be affected.
- (c) If the owner refuses to pay the debt which is older than two years then the municipality will apply to a competent Court for an order in the following terms: -
 - (i) In the case where there is already a judgment for the payment of the amount, an order that the judgment debt be paid out of the proceeds of the sale, before the mortgage debt is settled.

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



(ii) In the case where there is no judgment debt, for an order stating transfer of the property pending the finalisation of a civil action to be instituted against the person who is in law liable for the payment of the outstanding debt.

(iii) The above action must be taken before the property is transferred as the statutory lien created by Section 118(3) of the Act only endures until the property has been transferred and in terms of Section 118(5) of the Act the new owner of the property cannot be held liable for the debt that became due before a transfer of a residential property took place.

(5) Other debt collection methods

(a) The debt collection methods mentioned in the paragraphs above are not an exhaustive list of methods that can be applied to collect debts and any other methods that can be initiated will be implemented with the approval of Council.

(6) Debt Collection Costs

(a) Any costs, which include collection costs, charges, disbursements and legal costs relating to any of the debt collection methods applied to collect the debt will be debited to the account of the defaulting debtor.

16. ARRANGEMENTS TO PAY ARREAR DEBT

(1) Arrangements to Pay Outstanding and Due Amounts in Consecutive Installments - Residential Households

(a) One of the key objectives of debt collection is to encourage debtors to start paying their monthly accounts in full. In addition it is also necessary to ensure that arrear debt is addressed. The current average balances on consumer accounts necessitate that innovative ideas be implemented to encourage consumers to settle their arrears. At the same time it is also of utmost importance that regular payers not be discouraged through the implementation of any possible incentives.

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



- (b) The main aim of an agreement will be to promote full payment of the current account and to address the arrears within a period of 12 months.
- (c) A debtor may enter into a written agreement with the Municipality to repay any outstanding and due amount to the Municipality under the following conditions:-
 - (i) The outstanding balance, costs and any interest thereon shall be paid in regular and consecutive monthly installments;
 - (ii) The current monthly amount must be paid in full; and
 - (iii) The written agreement has to be signed on behalf of the Municipality by a duly authorised officer.

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



- (iv) The agreement will be compliant with the requirements of the National Credit Act.
 - (d) In order to determine monthly installments a comprehensive statement of assets and liabilities of the debtor must be compiled by a treasury official. To ensure the continuous payment of such arrangement the amount determined **must be affordable** to the consumer, taking into account that payment of the monthly current account is a prerequisite for concluding an arrangement.
 - (e) The municipality may from time to time introduce incentive schemes to improve the debt collection rate.
 - (f) A consumer who cannot pay their arrear debt may enter into an arrangement to pay the account over twelve (12) months with an initial payment of 20 percent of the outstanding amount.
 - (g) 20% discount upon full settlement of the outstanding debt.
- (2) There will be no arrangements allowed on meter tempering/illegal connection, both the amount charged for consumption and temper fine will be paid in full before reconnection of services
- (a) During the time of the debt collection process, but before the debt is handed over to the attorneys a consumer may enter into an arrangement to settle arrear debt.
 - (b) No arrangements will be entertained by attorneys on a debt that has been handed over for legal collection.
 - (c) The municipality will entertain only one arrangement with a consumer to settle arrear debt. Failure to abide by the arrangement will result in that:-
 - (i) the arrangement being terminated with immediate effect; and
 - (ii) the outstanding balance immediately becoming due and payable;

**KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.**



- (3) The consumer by signing the arrangement agreement to settle arrear debt acknowledges the following: -
- (i) The debt is owed to the municipality.
 - (ii) That on default of the arrangement agreement, interest on arrears will be charged on the amount due. Electricity supply to the property of the consumer will be disconnected or the consumer will be blocked from the purchase of electricity on the prepayment system, and legal proceedings will be instituted to collect the debt.
 - (iii) That the consumer will be liable for all costs, which includes legal costs on an attorney client basis incurred to collect the debt.
- (4) Arrangements by businesses
- (a) At the date of the arrangement a minimum of 50% of the capital arrear debt must be paid immediately.
 - (b) After the payment of 50% of the capital arrear debt, 50% of the interest accumulated will be written off from the provision for bad debt. (Refer to 17.(6))
 - (c) The balance of the debt which includes the capital amount and interest must be paid over a 6 month period on an interest free basis provided payments are made monthly by the due date.
 - (d) The total monthly installment must include the current monthly charges plus the amount to settle arrear debt.
 - (e) Arrangement by businesses to settle arrear debt will only be entertained for debt on which debt collection actions have been taken and which actions are in an advanced stage.
 - (f) Failure to maintain the arrangement will result in interest being reversed and full debt collection being implemented, with no possibility of reprieve.
 - (g) Any arrangement outside of the foregoing must be approved by the Municipal Manager. This function cannot be delegated.

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



(5) Family Bereavements

- (a) In the case of a family bereavement where electricity is disconnected the municipality will reconnect the power supply immediately.
- (b) The head of the family must make the necessary arrangements by supplying proof for reconnection of the power supply with the municipality.
- (c) After the funeral the municipality will allow two weeks for the full settlement of the electricity account.
- (d) If the electricity account is not settled in full within two weeks after the funeral the municipality shall disconnect the electricity and recovery action as outlined in this policy shall commence.

17. INDIGENT DEBTORS

- (1) An account holder (consumer) may apply, in the prescribed manner, to be regarded as an indigent debtor as defined in the Indigent Policy approved by the council.
- (2) Any person who has been declared indigent shall be entitled to indigent subsidies for basic services on a basis determined by Council from time to time.
- (3) The approved account holder shall remain responsible for any outstanding amount at the date of application as well as for future charges.
- (4) The arrears on the accounts of households, approved as indigent, will be submitted to Council to be written off in full (including any interest charged) after the expiry of six months being registered as an indigent. This submission will only be valid as a once-off exercise after approval and will not be applicable for future consumption in excess of the approved subsidy accumulated.

18. DEBT OF ABSCONDED OWNERS

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



- (1) The occupant of the property must sign an agreement in which the occupant agrees to pay all property rates and service charges that are to be raised on the property of the absconded registered owner's property.

19. STAFF AND COUNCILLORS - PAYMENT OF ARREARS

- (1) All staff joining the municipality must within thirty (30) days sign an agreement to pay arrears.
- (2) All existing staff and Councillors who have not entered into an agreement to pay arrears must do so within thirty (30) days of the approval of this policy by council.
- (3) A staff member of a municipality may not be in arrears to the municipality for rates and service charges for a period longer than 3 months, and a municipality may deduct any outstanding amounts from a staff member's salary after this period.
- (4) The repayment period for both Councillors and staff is not to exceed three (3) months.
- (5) All agreements with Councillors must not exceed the expiry date of the term of office.

20. ADMINISTRATION ORDERS - PAYMENT OF ARREARS

- (1) On notification that the order for administration in terms of s74 of the Magistrates Court Act, 1944 has been granted, Council will manage the debt that is part of the administration order separately to the current account.
- (2) The debtor will be responsible for the payment of the current monthly account and if the debtor defaults on the payment of the account, debt collection action will be implemented.

21. WRITE OFF OF IRRECOVERABLE DEBT

- (1) The objective to write off irrecoverable debt is to have a debt book that does not reflect irrecoverable debt.

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



- (2) For this purpose Council should adopt and implement a write off policy to formalise the processes for writing off such debts.

22. CERTIFICATES REQUIRED FOR TENDERS

- (1) A person or an institution reacting to a tender published by the municipality or wishing to enter into a contract to either provide services or goods to the municipality must produce a certificate, on the prescribed form, which states that regular payment of rates and services accounts are maintained and that the account is currently up to date.
- (2) A person who fails to provide such a certificate shall be disqualified from the tendering process.
- (3) A person who has an existing arrangement with the municipality for the payment of arrears shall be exempted from (1) and (2) to the extent of the arrears.

23. PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE

- (1) A certificate endorsed by the municipal manager, reflecting the amount due and payable to the municipality, shall upon mere production thereof be accepted by any court of law as prima facie evidence of the indebtedness reflected therein.

24. OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

- (1) Any person who -
 - (a) fails to give the access required by a duly authorised representative of the municipality in terms of this policy;
 - (b) obstructs or hinders a duly authorised representative of the municipality in the exercise of his or her powers or performance of functions or duties in terms of this policy;
 - (c) unlawfully uses or interferes with municipal equipment or the consumption of services supplied to any customer;

**KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.**



- (d) tampers with or breaks any seal on a meter or on any equipment belonging to the municipality, or causes a meter not to register properly the service used;
- (e) fails, or refuses, to give a duly authorised representative of the municipality such information as he or she may reasonably require for the purpose of exercising or performing his or her powers or functions in terms of this policy, or gives such representative false or misleading information, knowing it to be false or misleading; or
- (f) contravenes, or fails to comply with, a provision of this policy, will be guilty of an offence.

**KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.**



- (2) Upon conviction in a court, an offender shall be liable for a fine not exceeding R60 000, or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 12 (twelve) months, or both such a fine and imprisonment, and may be charged for consumption, as determined by the chief financial officer, and based on average monthly consumption, or as determined by resolution of the municipality from time to time.

25. REPORTING AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

- (1) The Chief Financial Officer shall report monthly to the Municipal Manager in a suitable format to enable the Municipal Manager to report to the Executive Mayor as supervisory authority in terms of section 99 of the Systems Act, read with section 100(c).
- (2) The Executive Mayor as Supervisory Authority shall, at intervals of three (3) months, report to Council as contemplated in section 99(c) of the Systems Act.
- (3) This report shall contain particulars on cash collection statistics, showing high-level debt recovery information (numbers of customers; enquires; arrangements; default arrangements; growth or reduction of arrear debt).
- (4) Where possible, the statistics should ideally be divided into wards, business (commerce and industry), domestic, state, institutional and other such divisions.
- (5) If in the opinion of the Chief Financial Officer, the municipality will not achieve cash receipt income equivalent of the income projected in the annual budget as approved by Council, the Chief Financial Officer will report this with motivation to the Municipal Manager who will, if in agreement with the Chief Financial Officer, immediately move for a revision of the budget according to realistically realisable income levels.

26. INCOME COLLECTION TARGET

- (1) Income collection targets will be set by the Chief Financial Officer to achieve the optimum debt collection ratio i.e. receipt / billing, that will satisfy the municipalities IDP objectives.

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



27. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LEASES

- (1) The procedure for the recovery of arrears on leases will be in accordance with the conditions contained in the relevant lease contract.

28. TEMPORARY WORKERS

- (1) Where the municipality provides temporary employment to members of the community who are in arrears with payments for municipal rates and services they will be required to enter an agreement to pay 20% of their gross remuneration towards these arrears of debt.

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



29. HOUSING

(1) General Principles

- (a) Interest may be charged on all overdue accounts at an interest rate that shall be determined by Council from time to time. The interest rate shall be the Prime Bank interest rate plus 1 %.
- (b) Interest charges on arrears may be frozen subject to a rescheduled debt arrangement being consistently honored.
- (c) A debt rescheduling arrangement requires the payment of the current account plus an acceptable amount towards the arrears each month.
- (d) The first payment of the debt should be made at the time the debt rescheduling arrangement is entered into.
- (e) If an arrangement is not honoured, the debt collection process/legal action will resume from where it was suspended and not restart at the beginning of the administrative process.
- (f) The Ward and Proportional Representative (PR) Councillors will be informed of defaulting debtors following the issuing of a Letter of Demand to and Judgement Order against the occupant.
- (g) Home visits will be undertaken by officials or representatives on behalf of Council following the issue of the Letter of Demand to the debtor and again, once a Judgement Order has been granted. The visiting official or representative will make every effort to encourage the defaulting debtor to pay his current account and enter into an arrangement for the payment of arrears.
- (h) The debtor is responsible for all legal costs and will have to pay such costs before any legal action may be stopped. An acceptable debt rescheduling agreement must also be entered into before any legal action may be stopped.
- (i) Minimum payments approved by the Municipal Manager on the advice of the Chief Financial Officer are required from the debtor prior to cessation of the legal process.

**KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.**



- (j) If the debtor defaults on an arrangement made on the day of eviction, a re-issued Warrant of Ejectment will be obtained and the subsequent eviction process may only be stopped if all outstanding arrears, plus any legal costs, are paid.
- (k) Once an eviction has been carried out by the Sheriff of the Court, no re-instatement of the evicted debtor will be considered.

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



(2) The Housing Collection Process

(a) Rental Schemes

- (i) Rental is payable in advance by the due date.
- (ii) If payment is not received by the due date on the account, a First Contact Letter requesting payment and offering the debtor an opportunity to make an arrangement within 14 days, must be sent to the defaulting debtor.
- (iii) If no response to the First Contact Letter is received, a letter of Demand must be issued allowing the defaulter 7 days as a final opportunity to make an arrangement.
- (iv) If the debtor fails to respond to the aforesaid Letter of Demand, the legal collection process will commence and the debtor will be liable for all legal costs.
- (v) The legal collection process will commence with the issue of a letter demanding payment within a stipulated period of 10 days.
- (vi) If the debtor fails to respond within the allowed time, summons will be issued, which in turn will be followed by default judgement and ultimately, the sanction of eviction will follow.

(b) Home-ownership Schemes

- (i) Applies to existing schemes as new schemes cannot be legally entered into - refer MFMA section 164 (1) (c)
- (ii) Loan instalments and other housing charges are payable by the due date.
- (iii) If payment is not received by the due date, a First Contact Letter must be served on the debtor requesting payment and offering the debtor an opportunity to make an arrangement for payment within 14 days from the date of such letter.
- (iv) If there is no response to the First Contact Letter, a Letter of Demand must be issued, allowing the defaulter 7 days as a final opportunity to make an arrangement for payment.
- (v) If the debtor fails to respond to this notice, the legal collection process will commence and the debtor will be responsible for all legal costs incurred by the Council.

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



- (vi) If the amount due on the day of eviction is not paid, repossession of the property will take place and arrangements must be made for resale of the property.

30. POWER OF ENTRY AND INSPECTION

- (1) For any purpose related to the implementation or enforcement of this policy, and at all reasonable times, or in an emergency, a duly authorised representative of the municipality may enter premises, request information and carry out such inspection or examination, as he or she may deem necessary -
- (a) with regard to the installation or repair of any meter or service connection or reticulation; or
- (b) so as to limit, discontinue, disconnect or reconnect the provision of any service.
- (2) If the municipality considers it necessary that work be performed to enable the aforesaid authorised representative to perform a function referred to in subsection (1) properly and effectively, then it may -
- (a) by written notice require the owner or occupier of the premises, at his or her own expense, to do specific work within a specified period; or
- (b) if, in its reasonable opinion, the situation is a matter of urgency, then the municipality may do such work, or cause it to be done, at the expense of the owner or occupier, and without written notice.
- (3) If the work referred to in subsection (2)(b) above is carried out for the sole purpose of establishing whether a contravention of this policy has been committed, and no such contravention has taken place, then the municipality shall bear the expense connected therewith, together with the expense of restoring the premises to its former condition.

31. NOTICES

- (4) A notice or document issued by the municipality in terms of this policy shall be deemed to be duly issued if signed by a duly authorised representative of the municipality.
- (5) If a notice is to be served on a person in terms of this policy then such service shall be effected by -

**KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.**



- (a) delivering the notice to him or her personally, or to his or her duly authorised agent;
- (b) delivering the notice at his or her residence or place of employment, to a person apparently not less than 16 (sixteen) years of age, and apparently residing or employed there;
- (c) if he or she has nominated an address for legal purposes, delivering the notice to such an address;
- (d) registered or certified post, addressed to his or her last known address;
- (e) in the case of a body corporate, delivering it to the registered office or the business premises of such a body corporate; or
- (f) if service cannot be effected in terms of the foregoing subsections, by affixing it to the principal door of entry to the premises or displaying it in a conspicuous place on the property to which it relates.

32. REGULATIONS

- (1) The municipality may make regulations regarding –
 - (a) any matter required, or permitted, to be prescribed in terms of this policy; and
 - (b) generally, all matters which, in the reasonable opinion of the municipality, are necessary, or expedient, to be prescribed, in order to achieve the objects of this policy.

33. REPEAL OF BY-LAW

- (1) Any policy relating to credit control and debt collection adopted by the municipality or any erstwhile municipal council now comprising an administrative unit of the municipality shall be repealed from the date of promulgation of this policy.

34. PUBLICATION OF BY-LAW

- (1) The Municipal Manager shall, within 14 days from the date of adoption of this Policy by the Council, by public note draw the attention of the public to its broad contents and method of application.

KING SABATA DALINDYEBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TO REGULATE CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT, CREDIT CONTROL AND DEBT
COLLECTION POLICIES IN KING SABATA DALINDYEBO MUNICIPAL AREA.



35. APPLICATION OF THE BY-LAW

- (1) The Council reserves the right to differentiate between different categories of consumers, debtors, services or service standards when applying this Policy. The Council will on application of the credit control policy avoid discrimination as forbidden by the Constitution unless it is established that the discrimination is fair as allowed by the Constitution.

36. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW OF THIS BAY-LAW

- (1) This policy shall be implemented once approved by Council. All future investments must be made in accordance with this policy.
- (2) In terms of section 17(1) (e) of the MFMA this policy must be reviewed on annual basis and the reviewed policy tabled to Council for approval as part of the budget process.

N. PAKADE
MUNICIPAL MANAGER

RESOLUTION NUMBER: