


COGTA MEETING:
6 JULY 2021



BACKGROUND

- Electricity issues have been experienced since 2015, but in 2016 it escalated to a point where consumers experience equipment and income losses.
- Agri Letaba had a meeting with the Greater Tzaneen Municipality and warned that the system will collapse as the network is not being maintained.
- Agri Letaba contacted NERSA in 2016 regarding the dilapidated network, the health and safety issues and the Greater Municipality's obligations to have a distribution license.
- An Energy Forum was established with various stakeholders including the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, NERSA, Agri Letaba, Business Chamber and Community Representatives.
- Since 2016 various organisations have been contacted to assist with the Electricity crises and numerous correspondence and meetings where held to offer assistance to the Greater Tzaneen Municipality.
- Summary of events have been sent with the petition document in 2020 and all documentation available on request.



CORRESPONDENCE TO:
DIRECTOR: ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING DEPT.
MR MOSWATSE LELOPE
MUNICIPAL MANAGER: THAPELO MATLALA
COMMUNITY LIAISON: BHEKI TSHAWA

2016 – 2021

EMAILS TO SECRETARY, PROJECTS DEPT. AND INFRASTRUCTURE
DEPT. NOT INCLUDED

2016 CORRESPONDENCE

DATE	CORRESPONDENCE HEADING	ATTENTION	FEEDBACK
23-Nov-16	Urgent Electricity Supply Concerns	Mayor: Maripe Mangena Acting MM Benjamin Mathebula, Director: Electricity Dept. Moswatse Lelope	Meeting held: 28 November 2016 TM acknowledged they don't have transformers or spare transformers. Suggested Agri Letaba form part of the LED and IDP - Agri Letaba joined both forums.

2017 CORRESPONDENCE

DATE	CORRESPONDENCE HEADING	ATTENTION	FEEDBACK	NOTE
05-Jan-17	Electricity Crises	Director: Electricity Dept. Moswatse Lelope Acting MM: Benjamin Mathebula	Meeting held: 12 January 2017 Response from GTM: *Progress of finalising computerised system in control room * Priority to appoint service provider, * 5 Transformers to be delivered, * Plan of action to be send	2021 - still no system - whatsapp groups effective and still active, but no reporting
21-Feb-17	General Machinery Regulations: Supervision of Machinery	Director: Electricity Dept. Moswatse Lelope	GTM operating in contravention of the Occupational Health & Safety Act & Regulations. RE: Certified Electrical Engineer	
21-Feb-17	FORUM MEETING			
22-Feb-17	Letter to Sam Lelope re: Electricity	Director: Electricity Dept. Moswatse Lelope	TOR: Only for roles & responsibilities, Vegetation programme submitted by Mr Lekaka. Programme of action include Transformer detail. Other operational issues not related to Electricity forum may not be shared.	
12-Apr-17	Electricity Forum Meeting	Director: Electricity Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No future longterm solution.	
22-Mar-17	General Machinery Regulations: Supervision of Machinery	Director: Electricity Dept. Moswatse Lelope	GTM operating in contravention of OHS - email sent 21 Feb	
05-Apr-17	Request date for next Energy Forum Meeting	Director: Electricity Dept. Moswatse Lelope	Date Scheduled	

DATE	CORRESPONDENCE HEADING	ATTENTION	FEEDBACK
18-Apr-17	FORUM MEETING	Forum Established	2 x letters from HK Houers & Granor Passi
25-Apr-17	FORUM MEETING		Vegetation, Transformers (Awaiting 6), Lack of vehicles
03-May-17	General Machinery Regulations: Supervision of Machinery	Director: Electricity Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback
08-May-17	General Machinery Regulations: Supervision of Machinery	Director: Electricity Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback
15-May-17	General Machinery Regulations: Supervision of Machinery	Director: Electricity Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback
31-May-17	FORUM MEETING		CANCELLED
29-Jun-17	Request date for feedback and next Energy Forum Meeting	Director: Electricity Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback
18-Jul-17	Request date for feedback and next Energy Forum Meeting	Director: Electricity Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback
21-Jul-17	Request date for feedback and next Energy Forum Meeting	Director: Electricity Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback
25-Jul-17	FORUM MEETING		CANCELLED

DATE	CORRESPONDENCE HEADING	ATTENTION	FEEDBACK
06-Sep-17	Electricity Forum - No feedback from GTM	Director: Electricity Dept. Moswatse Lelo	No feedback
15-Sep-17	Request for feedback and next Energy Forum Meeting	Director: Electricity Dept. Moswatse Lelo	No feedback
05-Oct-17	FORUM MEETING	Letters handed in at meeting	Letters handed in at the meeting from various consumers:
		from various consumers:	Viva Letsitele - load profiles
		Chris van Coller	Kromdraai Blomme – SW van der Merwe
		AM Muller & Seuns	Bushvalley Chickens – Ian Preece
		HK Houers - Wimpie Mostert	Matume Sawmills – Nile McGaffin
		Lorette Pretorius - Letsitele	Westfalia Fruit – Thabo
			Mieliekloof – Tony Long
27-Oct-17	Loss due to electricity supply (Verliese agv. probleme met elektrisiteitd voorsiening)	Andrew Laubscher, Director: Electricity Dept. Moswatse Lelo	Feedback from Lizl le Grange re: Insurance
23-Nov-17	Electrical Bulk Services Contribution Policy: Increase in rates Illegality of bulk increase	Director: Electricity Dept: Moswatse Lelo	Feedback: 30 November 2017

CORRESPONDENCE 2018

DATE	CORRESPONDENCE HEADING	ATTENTION	FEEDBACK
14-Mar-18	FORUM MEETING		NB: Control room - whatsapp not formal, hence no records of fault report
04-May-18	FORUM MEETING		NB: DBSA loan discussion - Suggestion Technical Audit Network, repairs and maintenance will be prioritized, DBSA will monitor work done and money spend, The GTM will have a master plan to work with in the future
16-May-18	Technical Audit on Electricity grid	MM: Thapelo Matlala	No feedback
21-May-18	Technical Audit on Electricity grid	MM: Thapelo Matlala	No feedback
31-May-18	Technical Audit on Electricity grid	MM: Thapelo Matlala	No feedback
09-Jul-18	Technical Audit & reporting of constant outages	MM: Thapelo Matlala	No feedback

DATE	CORRESPONDENCE HEADING	ATTENTION	FEEDBACK
23-Jul-18	Technical Audit & reporting of constant outages	MM: Thapelo Matlala	No feedback
31-Aug-18	Feedback request: DBSA funds received, allocated, repairs & maintenance	Andrew Laubscher	No feedback
03-Sep-18	Invite to Agri Letaba meeting for feedback	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	Will send representative
26-Sep-18	FORUM MEETING		Issues raised: Vegetation, Insurance, Auto reclosers, Crane truck. NB: Control room - whatsapp still not recognised, but only reporting system that works.
02-Oct-18	Forum Meeting - Input from Energy Forum regarding issues raised in the minutes of 26 September 2018	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope, Andrew Laubscher	Feedback from Mr. Lelope: We will not report our day-to-day operations to Agri Letaba or any other member outside the GTM
13-Nov-18	Meeting held with MM: Mr Thapelo Matlala, Mayor Mr Maripe Mangena regarding frustrating energy forum meeting, no feedback or response from GTM. * Issues raised the 2nd of October 2018 has been resent.	Mayor: Maripe Mangena Thapelo Matlala	Feedback meeting: New vehicles, high-tech security and promise a better communication system (Transformer theft)
26-Nov-18	Letter from Mabunda Citrus: Mr Mbombi - 70% of crop loss due to electricity supply	Director of Electrical Dept: Moswatse Lelope, MM: Thapelo Matlala	Feedback: Andrew Laubscher - acknowledge receive
27-Nov-18	Electricity Whatsapp groups	Bheki Tswhane, Director Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback
06-Dec-18	Letter from PP boerdery - Ria Kleynhans - Summary of outages	Director Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback
14-Dec-18	Letter from Minnaar Boerdery - 5 consecutive days without proper power supply	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope, MM: Thapelo Matlala	No feedback

CORRESPONDENCE 2019

DATE	CORRESPONDENCE HEADING	ATTENTION	FEEDBACK
09-Jan-19	Urgent Letter Power Struggles Letsitele	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope, MM: Thapelo Matlala, Mayor: Maripe Mangena	No feedback
11-Jan-19	HK Houers: Unreliable power supply from GTM	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope, MM: Thapelo Matlala, Mayor: Maripe Mangena	No feedback
14-Feb-19	FORUM MEETING		NB: Vegetation Mr Hubble - live fence; 2 sheep died (SAFETY!)
25-Feb-19	Faulty Transformer - Mr Gubitz	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope, Andrew Laubscher, Bheki Tshawe	Feedback from Andrew Laubscher
05-Mar-19	Attention Energy Forum: Politsi Substation - Cable theft, dangerous conditions of sub-station, sabotage, contravention of OHS act, Communication, Accountability - Pictures incl.	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope, Andrew Laubscher, Bheki Tshawe	No feedback
11-Mar-19	Urgent Letter Power Struggles Letsitele - follow up	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope, Andrew Laubscher, Bheki Tshawe	No feedback
26-Mar-19	Merensky: Unreliable electricity supply having crippling soci-economic impact eg. 3000 jobs to only 700	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope, Andrew Laubscher, Bheki Tshawe	No feedback
29-Mar-19	Urgent Letter Power Struggles Letsitele - follow up	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope, Andrew Laubscher, Bheki Tshawe	
10-Apr-19	Urgent Letter Power Struggles Letsitele - follow up	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope, Andrew Laubscher, Bheki Tshawe	No feedback

DATE	CORRESPONDENCE HEADING	ATTENTION	FEEDBACK	NOTE
26-Jun-19	Urgent Letter Power Struggles Letsitele - follow up CRISES!	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope, Bheki Tshawe	No feedback	
01-Jul-19	Bulk Tariff Increases	Bheki Tshawe	Feedback from Bheki Tshawe	
11-Jul-19	Letter from Pieter Vermaak: Power off between 10 - 14 p/day	MM: Thapelo Matlala	No feedback	
14-Aug-19	Electrical Bulk Service Tarriff Increases - follow up	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback	NB: Only ward 15 had an IDP meeting discussing Bulk Increases - no bulk electricity supply in this area.
29-Aug-19	Electrical Bulk Service Tarriff Increases - follow up	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback	
30-Aug-19	Letter re: Letsitele A substation - follow up	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback	
02-Sep-19	Electrical Bulk Service Tarriff Increases - follow up	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback	
03-Sep-19	Letter re: Letsitele A substation - follow up	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback	
11-Sep-19	Electrical Bulk Service Tarriff Increases - follow up	MM: Thapelo Matlala	No feedback	
27-Sep-19	Electrical Bulk Service Tarriff Increases - follow up & Requesting Energy Forum meeting	MM: Thapelo Matlala, Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback	
14-Nov-19	FORUM MEEETING		NB: Undertaken to upgrade call centre, metre readings	

2020 CORRESPONDENCE

DATE	CORRESPONDENCE HEADING	ATTENTION	FEEDBACK	NOTE
08-Jan-20	Letter re: Letsitele - lack of quality of power supply	Director of Electrical Dep. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback	
09-Jan-20	Letter re: Letsitele - lack of quality of power supply	Director of Electrical Dep. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback	
07-Feb-20	Request urgent forum meeting date	Director of Electrical Dep. Moswatse Lelope, Bheki Tshawe	No feedback	
10-Feb-20	Electricity supply - areas without power without days, GTM borrowing transformers from neighbouring area. No sustainability	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope, MM: Thapelo Matlala	No feedback	NB: Urgent meeting requested as areas in Letsitele have been without power from 5 - 15 days
11-Feb-20	Request urgent forum meeting date - follow up	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback	
12-Feb-20	Letter from ATKV Eiland - 5 days without power	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback	
14-Feb-20	Request urgent forum meeting date - follow up	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback	
17-Feb-20	Request for urgent feedback on electricity and forum meeting - DAY 10 without electricity	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback	
21-Feb-20	Letter from La Cotte: Pieter Vermaak - DAY 12 without electricity	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback	
28-Feb-20	Proposed solution from Agri Letaba - Farmers will procure a transformer	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback	

DATE	CORRESPONDENCE HEADING	ATTENTION	FEEDBACK
02-Mar-20	Proposed solution from Agri Letaba - follow up	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope, MM: Thapelo Matlala	No feedback
10-Mar-20	Letter from La Cotte: Pieter Vermaak Photos included of dilapidated network	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope, MM: Thapelo Matlala, Bheki Tshawe	No feedback
13-Mar-20	Letter from La Cotte: Pieter Vermaak - follow up	Director of Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope, MM: Thapelo Matlala, Bheki Tshawe	No feedback
17-Mar-20	Proposed solution from Agri Letaba & Urgent request for Forum meeting - follow up	Director Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope, MM: Thapelo Matlala & NERSA	No feedback - NERSA requested that Mr Lelope answer our email regarding the proposed solution - Response: 19 March 2020
21-Apr-20	FORUM MEETING - VIRTUAL		Outstanding accounts: R180 000 = budget constraints, Plan for Letsitele, Transformers, Charge from GTM, but consumers without electricity for 15 days
06-May-20	Feedback from Agri Letaba re: Forum Meeting held on 21 April	MM: Mr Thapelo Matlala, Director of Electrical Dept Moswatse Lelope	Acknowledgment from Mr Matlala
28-May-20	FORUM MEETING - VIRTUAL: Feedback Letsitele		No feedback on outstanding R180 million on accounts
09-Jun-20	Letter from Nikolaas Gubitz- low quality power supply	Director Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope, MM Thapelo Matlala	Feedback from Mr Lelope - 11 June 2020
19-Jun-20	Letsitele Electricity including summary of 1 whatsapp group for one day = 67 pages	Director Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope, MM Thapelo Matlala	No feedback
22-Jun-20	HK Houers letter - Unstable power supply	Director Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope, MM Thapelo Matlala	No feedback
16-Jul-20	Electricity Issues - Letsitele (Electricity 6 hours off at a time)	Director Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope, MM Thapelo Matlala	No feedback
20-Jul-20	Electricity Issues - Letsitele incl. Mr Landman's issues of cable theft	Director Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	Reply from Mr Lelope, but no feedback
28-Jul-20	Letter from Groep 91 - reporting various issues	Director Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback
29-Jul-20	Electricity Issues - Letsitele incl. Mr landman's issues of cable theft	Director Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback
30-Jul-20	Electricity Issues - Letsitele incl. Mr landman's issues of cable theft	Director Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback

DATE	CORRESPONDENCE HEADING	ATTENTION	FEEDBACK
31-Jul-20	Electricity Issues - Letsitele incl. Mr landman's issues of cable theft	Director Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	Feedback received 1 Sept. 2020
31-Jul-20	Letter from Groep 91 - reporting various issues - follow up	Director Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback
03-Sep-20	Letter: 2 HK Houers letters & reiterating problems	Director Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	Email received from Mr. Lelope (define energy forum) - No feedback
07-Sep-20	Energy Forum - reply to Mr. Lelope re: Energy Forum Purpose and issues raised since 2020 that has not been addressed	Director Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback
16-Nov-20	Municipal Strike & Service delivery	MM: Thapelo Matalala	No feedback

CORRESPONDENCE 2021

DATE	CORRESPONDENCE HEADING	ATTENTION	FEEDBACK
24-Feb-21	Urgent request for an Energy Forum meeting: Areas without electricity for 5 days	Director Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope, Bheki Tshawe	No feedback
16-Mar-21	Electricity Report Feedback - Daily outages	Bheki Tshawe, Director Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback
16-Mar-21	Urgent request for an Energy Forum meeting: Areas without electricity for days - follow up	Director Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope	No feedback
16-Mar-21	Power supply to HK Houers - follow up	Director Electrical Dept. Moswatse Lelope, Bbheki Tshawe	Bheki Tshawe acknowledge email received, no feedback

SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE

- 80 Letters/Emails sent from 2016
- 63 Letters/Emails without any feedback or reply
- Frustration is not only the lack of communication, but also the reluctance to accept any assistance offered from the Energy Forum.

GTM OWG ELECTRICAL – WHATSAPP GROUP CORRESPONDENCE

- Control room: Customers are still using a whatsapp system that works well, but does the control room have a weekly or monthly reporting system to identify 'hotspot' areas that should be prioritised.
- June total on only 1 whatsapp group:
 - Power off: 756 Reports
 - Phase Down: 83
 - Power dips: 27
- **Reporting includes:**
 - 3 fires reported at 3 different sub stations
 - Dilapidated poles and transformers
 - Fuses out – daily
 - 'Loud Bang/Explosive' Sounds
 - Cable Theft
 - Outages from 2 hours to 5 days (Not in June, but Letsitele had a 15 days outage in January)
 - In addition to power outages, June had an Eskom load shedding schedule



IDP

Network of GTM : 3500km²

According to the IDP of 2021 – 2022 the replacement value of the network is R1.6 billion and yet, in the 2021 – 2022 budget GTM is planning to spend R47.5 million on recapitalising the Electricity network. From the R47.5 million budgeted, R20 million includes new connection which means that only R27.5 million will effectively be for recapitalising.

DBSA Loan projects: R90 million loan for priority projects

Concerns regarding the DBSA loan:

- Tzaneen Sub-station was budgeted for R6 600 000.00 in the 2019 budget, but in the 2021 budget the amount escalated to R16 600 000.00
- Replacement of existing aircons in council building, which is not a network priority considering the R1.6 billion needed to replace the network.
- Feedback to the Energy Forum Stakeholders

CONCLUSION

- 1) Consumers and Rate payers are not getting the quality of electricity supplied as outlined by Nersa;
- 2) Larger consumers were forced to depend on self-generation to ensure continuity of business and this comes at extremely high cost to individuals and businesses;
- 3) Business interruption in the area due to power failures and unreliability of the electric distribution network (under the GTM's control) is running into the 10's of millions of rands annually;
- 4) The attitude of the GTM towards the greater community, business chamber and organised Agriculture is very negative with rejection of all assistance offered and very little or no information forthcoming as to how the situation will be rectified;
- 5) There are no or very little contingency plans in place in the event of a catastrophic network failure, which is a realistic according to professional sources we consulted. In the event of such failure the second largest Citrus export producing region in South Africa as well as other exporting agricultural area will be devastated with no short term recovery. The economy of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality will suffer immeasurable.
- 6) Considering the lack of funding mentioned in the IDP with regards to the Electricity Dept. greater cognisance should be taken on meter readings and outstanding accounts.
- 7) Electricity income (which is more than 60% of the GTM's income) should be ringfenced solely for the Electrical Department of the GTM.
- 8) Apathetic personnel should be held accountable.
- 9) Suggested way forward that should be considered: Technical audit and acceptance of assistance offered.

THANK YOU

