



MARULENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
INDIGENT POLICY
2019/2020



MARULENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

INDIGENT DRAFT POLICY

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INDIGENT DRAFT POLICY

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy, the following terms shall bear the following meanings:

"Indigent households" shall mean all those households that are at or below the poverty threshold as determined by Maruleng Local Municipality.

"Indigent" means those persons who, due to a number of factors, are unable to pay the full economic costs on a basis levels of services.

"Indigent tariff" means the tariff is determined by Maruleng Local Municipality Council for the indigent households.

"Indigent subsidy" means the allocation of funds from the equitable share grant as determined by Maruleng Local Municipality Council for the indigent households.

"Indigent rebate" means the amount that is credited/tariff reduction to the indigent household.

"Fairness" means the treatment of consumers using a uniform set of criteria and procedures.

"Property" means any any portion of land including any improvements thereof which the boundaries are determined within the jurisdiction of Maruleng Local Municipality.

"MLM" means Maruleng Local Municipality



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OBJECTIVE

Because of the level of unemployment and subsequent poverty in the municipal area, there are households which are unable to pay for municipal services. The municipality therefore adopts this indigency management policy to ensure that these households have access to at least basic municipal services, and is guided in the formulation of this policy the national government policy in this regard.

WHO QUALIFIES FOR INDIGENT SUPPORT

Households where verified total gross monthly income of all occupants over 18 years of age does not exceed the highest amount of twice government pension grants as prescribed by the Department of Social Development, as the council may from time to time determine quality for a subsidy on free basic electricity.

Households where verified total monthly income does not exceed an amount of R7000.00 as the council may from time to time determine quality for subsidy on property rates and service charges for sewerage and refuse removal, and will additionally receive 6kl of water per month free of charge.

Only households where the accountholder or property owner has registered as indigent in terms of the municipal program, and whose registration has been accepted and entered into the municipal indigent register shall qualify for the above concessions.

For a household to qualify for subsidies or rebates on the major service charges and rebates on rates, the registered indigent must be the full-time occupant of the property concerned, and if not also the owner of property concerned, may not own any other property outside or within the municipal area.

Property owners with physical disability, those with chronic diseases must provide medical certificates from their Doctors as proof, and pensioners should be regarded as indigents.

Proof of chronic medication for at least six consecutive months.



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All the households that seek to be classified as indigent should complete an application form obtainable at the Municipality's offices.

The Council at Maruleng Local Municipality shall form a committee that will be responsible for assessing all applications to be classified as indigent through a compliance check to this policy.

If the household is approved, the provision of subsidies will commence immediately after approval. The provision of subsidies will be valid until end of the third financial year for the processing of Municipal accounts unless if deemed otherwise by the Council.

The list of applicants who have applied for classification as indigent shall be available for a period of one month at the Municipal offices and any other places where the Council may deem fit to ensure that it is made public and that the members of the community are offered an opportunity to raise objections.

Indigency relief shall apply for a period not extending beyond the financial year in which the particular relief is to continue.

To register as an indigent, the relevant property owner or account holder must personally complete and sign the registration form provided by the municipality for this purpose, and furnish the following documentations to accompany the application form:

- Proof of income of household owner and all other members of the household above the age of 18 years (excluding tenants)
- Proof of ownership or rental agreement.
- Certified copy of identity document.
- Social worker's report (residents other than pensioners with no income)
- Affidavit made at a police station.
- List of family members and their identity numbers.
- Pole number and electricity token.

Latest Municipal account where applicable as the municipality specifies. The Municipal official will provide assistance to persons who cannot read or write, at such times and places as are specified in the notices published to indicate that the registration programme is to take place.

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Registrations will take place on the dates and at times and places determined by the Council, but shall generally be undertaken during January/February yearly.

APPLICATION OF THE POLICY

The subsidies on rates and the specified service charges will be determined as part of each annual budget and in terms of the municipality's policies on property rates and tariffs.

In respect of water, a 100% subsidy up to 6 kl per household per month will apply, however, if consumption exceeds 6 kl per metering period (month) the consumer will be charged at an indigent tariff for actual consumption on the quantity exceeding 6 kl.

In respect of sewerage charges and charges for household refuse removal, the relief granted shall not be less than a rebate of 50% on the monthly amount billed for the service concerned.

In respect of property rates, the rebate shall be 100% of the rates based on the rateable value up to R30 000 and 75% of the rates based on the rateable value above R30 000.

NON-COMPLAINEE OF HOUSEHOLDS REGISTERED AS INDIGENT

When a property owner or accountholder who has registered as an indigent fail to comply with any arrangements or conditions materially relevant to the receipt of indigency relief, such person will forfeit his or her status as a registered indigent with immediate effect, and will be treated as an ordinary residential property owner or accountholder for the financial year concerned. The onus is on each registered indigent to advise the municipal manager of such failure to comply.

The relief to indigent may be withdrawn at discretion of the municipal manager; a registered indigent does not collect the free basic electricity (FBE).

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