

SOL PLAATJE MUNICIPALITY



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MEDIA STATEMENT

TO : ALL MEDIA

EMBARGO: NONE (FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 06 NOVEMBER 2024

RE: SOL PLAATJE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY SECURES NATIONAL TREASURY'S SMART METERING GRANT WORTH R100 MILLION.

The Sol Plaatje Local Municipality is proud to announce National Treasury's approval of its smart metering solutions grant application.

The National Treasury has appointed Vodacom (Pty) Ltd through a Transversal Tender Contract number RT29 as its preferred service provider for the supply and installation of a Smart Metering solution that will provide an estimated 13 000 prepaid electricity meters by end of March 2025 and to be covered within an allocation of R100 million grant funding.

The National Treasury will administer the allocation as an indirect grant with payments being directly paid to the telecommunications company.

In setting the path for the rollout of the single-phase electrical meters, the municipality submitted a Business Plan which after having been approved was enforced with the undersigning of a Service Level Agreement by all the parties.

For the awarding of this three-year contract, Vodacom is collaborating with two technology partners; Macrocomm –been conducting Large Power User reconstruction in the municipality’s jurisdiction, and Ontec - a company familiar with the installation of smart meters within the municipality’s jurisdiction.

Executive Mayor Cllr Kagisho Sonyoni welcomes the supply and installation of the new prepaid smart meters

The awarding of this transversal contract has been dubbed as a “critical intervention” by Executive Mayor Cllr Kagisho Sonyoni: “We have thousands of prepaid electricity meters that must be replaced with immediate effect.

“The rollout of the single phase electrical smart meters is our yardstick in propelling security of supply, advancing the modernization of prepaid electricity supported with related customer engagement systems.

“Equally important in promoting sustainable practices in an age of climate change; the rollout will bolster our efforts in improving energy management and encouraging end-user usage and awareness.

“The benefits for the municipality would include revenue enhancement, eliminating billing challenges and old meters which are easy to tamper with, reverse electricity losses through an efficient energy management system.

“Appreciably too is that Vodacom’s rollout of the new prepaid meters will create jobs and provide a skills transfer to the SMMEs to be appointed. We will be embarking on broad community awareness and consumer engagement efforts.”

Evah Mthimunye, Managing Executive for Vodacom Central Region commented:

“We are delighted to partner the Sol Plaatje Local Municipality in rolling out a minimum of 10 000 prepaid electricity meters by end of March 2025 as part of an end-to-end Smart Metering Solution. Our Smart Metering Ecosystem is tailored for private and public users, improving carbon footprint by reducing emissions through enhanced energy management.

“It also enables precise, real-time monitoring, which improves billing accuracy, reduces revenue losses, and accelerates the identification of system inefficiencies. By addressing issues at their source, users can enhance their revenue streams and streamline operational processes.”

“Our Smart Metering Ecosystem aligns perfectly with Vodacom’s purpose of connecting for a better future” by enabling a digital society. Therefore, by providing users with the tools to operate digitally and more efficiently, we are helping to modernize infrastructure while contributing to the growth of South Africa’s digital economy.”

Issued By: The Executive Mayor’s Office

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