

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE NO: 48/2024
10 April 2024

SUSTAINABLE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION SERVICE

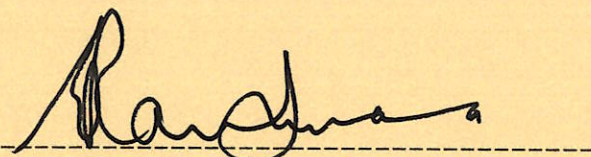
A while back, the municipality launched a programme focused on assisting with sustainable electricity distribution services. This programme had two objectives, namely: 1. Ensure electricity is available; 2. Ensure electricity is affordable. Over the last year, we have made significant progress on both fronts. With regards to available electricity, our goals were to ensure our business and residential clients are immune against load shedding by implementing a Municipal Load Shedding Immunity Framework, developed by Mr. Christo Nicholls from Stellenbosch University as part of his PhD research. This deployment started with securing private sector funding for both business-premises-focused and residential-focused projects.

Under the business premises-focused projects, our pilot site identified was the Pick n Pay building in Graaff-Reinet. We finally secured the required multi-entity use-of-premises contract, and subsequently, the equipment for the 400 kWp PV solution has now been ordered. Within the next 4–7 weeks, the installation and commissioning are planned. Once the first deployment is done successfully, the remainder of businesses wanting to participate and for which we can secure further private sector funding will be activated.

Under the residential-focused projects, our first town to receive residential immunity is Willowmore. The main reason for Willowmore is that it's the only town where there are no areas receiving their electricity service from Eskom. NOTE: We are in the process of engaging Eskom to ensure all of Dr. Beyers' towns will have residential-immunity in the next few months. For now, we have secured funding to construct a 1 MWp PV solar plant with a 1.4 MWp battery energy storage solution. The site visit is planned for Monday, April 15, 2024, whereafter planning, community engagement (as local trained individuals will be employed), installation, commissioning, and operations will commence. Details will be provided on the project after the first site meeting on Monday.

With regards to affordable electricity, our goal is to acquire bulk electricity at a lower cost. To achieve this, we activated an innovative programme called Smart Electricity Trading. This programme enables us to inject low-cost green energy into our grid, and because of the reduction in the cost of supply, we distribute a fair-proportioned discount to all consumers (with the correct metering infrastructure). The pilot phase of this program was run over the course of the last 79 days. The pilot produced 177 000 kWh (units) of Green Energy. This increased the municipality's electricity price margin from 25% to over 60%. Hence, the objectives were achieved. Next, we'll roll out the programme on a mass scale, and more information can be found at www.mymunicapp.co.za.

It is indeed with a sense of relief and humble gratitude that we, as Dr. Beyers Naudé Local Municipality, can state with confidence: "We are successfully repositioning the municipality to ensure a future of sustainable electricity supply that is guaranteed." We thank our pilot participants for their faith and patience; we thank our private sector funding partners for their willingness to trade with us; and we thank the people of Dr. Beyers Naudé Local Municipality for entrusting us with this mandate of sustainable electricity distribution service delivery. We haven't arrived at our final destination, but we are certainly progressing in the right direction. We'll keep you posted monthly on our progress.



Dr. E. M. Rankwana
Municipal Manager