

12 March 2026

## MEDIA STATEMENT

### TIMELINES FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTRICITY TARIFF APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2026/27 FINANCIAL YEAR

The National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) wishes to inform all licensed municipal electricity distributors, stakeholders and members of the public of the timelines for the submission and approval of municipal electricity tariff applications for the 2026/27 financial year.

These timelines follow the recent approval of Eskom's Retail Tariff and Structural Adjustment (ERTSA) application and the judgment of the North Gauteng High Court issued on 20 February 2026, which amended the timelines set by the same court on 4 December 2025 regarding the approval of ERTSA and municipalities' tariff applications.

#### Approval of Eskom Tariff Adjustment

On 5 March 2026, NERSA approved Eskom's ERTSA application. As part of this decision, NERSA authorised a 9.01% tariff increase, which will be effective from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.

#### Revised Timelines for Municipal Tariff Applications

As per the judgment of the North Gauteng High Court issued on 20 February 2026, municipalities/distributors' tariff application timelines are as follows:

- *Submission of Municipal Tariff Applications:*  
Municipalities/distributors must submit their electricity tariff applications to NERSA by no later than 31 March 2026.
- *Public Participation Process:*  
NERSA's public consultation process on municipal tariff applications will conclude on 21 April 2026.
- *Finalisation of Tariff Decisions:*  
NERSA will finalise the consideration of the municipal electricity tariff applications and communicate its decisions on or before 11 May 2026.

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#### Regulator Members:

Mr T Bukula (Chairperson) Ms R Govender (Deputy Chairperson) \*Adv NP Sithole (Chief Executive Officer)  
\*Mr W Majola \*Ms N Maseti \*Mr MW Mkhize Ms T Semane Mr FK Sibanda Ms PN Sibiya  
\*Full-Time Regulator Members

These timelines will ensure that NERSA consider the municipal tariffs timeously and will enable municipalities to implement approved tariffs at the beginning of the 2026/27 municipal financial year on 1 July 2026.

### **Compliance Requirements for Municipalities**

Municipalities are reminded that tariff applications must satisfy appropriate internal governance requirements, including:

- authorisation of the tariff application by the appropriate municipal authority;
- confirmation that tariffs have been approved by the Municipal Council;
- evidence of public consultation on proposed tariffs; and
- the submission of audited regulatory financial information for the 2024/25 financial year.

Failure to meet the revised deadlines may affect the processing and approval of the municipal electricity tariff applications.

### **Applications for Deviation**

Municipalities that require deviations from the revised timelines may apply to the Court for relief, as provided for in the Court Order of 20 February 2026, provided that good cause is shown.

### **Publication of Tariff Applications by NERSA**

The tariff applications will be published on the NERSA website to allow affected stakeholders and members of the public to submit written comments. The applications can be accessed on the NERSA website at [www.nersa.org.za](http://www.nersa.org.za) under Electricity > Pricing > Local Authorities & Private Distributors.

### **Commitment to Regulatory Certainty**

NERSA appreciates the cooperation of municipalities and stakeholders in ensuring compliance with its regulatory processes. The revised timelines are intended to ensure regulatory certainty, transparency and the orderly implementation of electricity tariffs for the upcoming financial year.

NERSA remains committed to fulfilling its statutory mandate of regulating the electricity sector in a manner that balances cost-reflective tariffs, consumer protection and the financial sustainability of the electricity supply industry.

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