

Good morning/Afternoon, Honorable chairperson, member of the panel, and fellow community members. My name is Simon Mokoena, and I am here today with community members of Oukasie in Madibeng Municipality as a concerned community member to share our thoughts the proposed tariff rates.

### Background

As we all know, the current tariff rates have been a significant burden on our community and society at large, Many of us struggle to make ends meets, and the high tariff rates only exacerbate the problem. As a community of Oukasie, we believe it is essential that we have a say in the tariff rates that affect our daily lives.

### Key Concerns

Our key concerns regarding the proposed tariff rates are:

1. **Affordability:** The proposed tariff rates are still unaffordable for many members of our community. We urge the panel to consider the impact of these rates on low-income households.
2. **Lack of Transparency:** The tariff-setting process lacks transparency, making it difficult for community members to understand how the rates are determined. We request that the panel provide more transparency in the tariff-setting process.
3. **Impact on local Business:** The high tariff rates will negatively impact local business, leading to job losses and economic instability. We urge the panel to consider the impact of the tariff rates on local businesses.

### Potential Reason why Municipality Fail to Deliver

- Poor planning and budgeting can lead to inadequate resource allocation, resulting in service delivery failure.
- Municipalities may lack the necessary skills, expertise and resources to effectively manage and deliver services.
- Corruption and mismanagement and maladministration can lead to the misallocation of resources resulting in service delivery failure (On going Middlemen within municipality also known as “entrepreneur’s” or “brokers” who may be exploiting or manipulating the system)
- Lack of accountability mechanisms can enable poor performance and corruptions leading to service delivery failure.
- The municipality fail to conduct public participation process to inform and consult with the public about proposed increase

### NERSA

- **Lack of Enforcement:**
- **Inadequate Oversight:** NERSA may not provide adequate oversight of municipality, enabling them to fail in their responsibilities.
- **Conflicts of interest:** NERSA officials may have conflicts of interest, compromising their ability to regulate municipality effectively.

In conclusion, We urge the panel to consider the concerns and recommendations of the community. We need tariff rates that are fair, transparent, and affordable. We believe that by working together we can find a solution that benefits everyone.

Thank you