



**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS TO THE FREE STATE
LEGISLATURE REGARDING THE PETITION OF RESIDENTS OF MATJHABENG
VERSUS MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

21 AUGUST 2025

REPORT PROFILE

Title of Report: Report of the Committee on Petitions to the Free State Legislature regarding the petition of Residents of Matjhabeng versus Matjhabeng Local Municipality

Responsible Committee: Committee on Petitions.

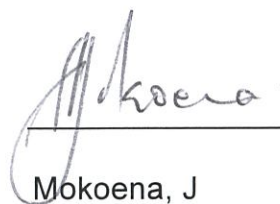
Report Compiled by and on: Nomsa Qayiso on 02 May 2025

Report checked and edited by: Ciska Williams, Manager Petitions Unit

Report for tabling in the Legislature on:

**TO THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER AND HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE
FREE STATE LEGISLATURE**

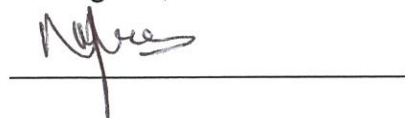
The Committee on Petitions herewith tables its report regarding the petition of Residents of Matjhabeng versus Matjhabeng Local Municipality. The Committee could not have presented this report without valuable contribution by the Petitioners, the Executive and officials of Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Hon. Members of the Committee on Petitions, as well as support services rendered by the Support staff from the Free State Legislature.


Mokoena, J

CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS:

Ndungane, N



Meeko, T



Khoabane, M



Garekoe, N



Cloete, A



Sigwebela, Z



Msimanga, M



Foko, M



Masoeu, D



Mkhabela, M



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1. INTRODUCTION

Committee on Petitions considered the petition of Residents of Matjhabeng versus Matjhabeng as per the provisions of Standing Rules and Orders of the Free State Legislature and Free State Petitions Act.

2. MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee comprises the following members:

Cloete, A	(Member)
Foko, M	(Member)
Garekoe, N	(Member)
Khoabane, M	(Member)
Masoeu, D	(Member)
Meeko, T	(Member)
Mokoena, J	(Chairperson)
Msimanga, M	(Member)
Ndungane, N	(Member)
Sigwebela, Z	(Member)

3. PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE

On 5th March 2025, the Committee on Petitions convened to consider the Petition of Residents of Matjhabeng versus Matjhabeng Local Municipality

4. CONSIDERATION OF THE PETITION

4.1. Residents of Matjhabeng versus Matjhabeng Local Municipality

4.1.1. Background – Residents of Matjhabeng

This petition is about Matjhabeng Local Municipality failure to ensure reliable and clean water to communities across the municipality. This is on account of frequent water leakages owing to old infrastructure which is not maintained. Almost 72% of water has been lost. This has resulted in residents not having water. In some instances, residents in Welkom and Riebeeckstad continuously experience water shortages for at least four days.

According to the Auditor General (AG) the municipality could only manage to use 20% of the allocated water infrastructure grants for the 2018/2019 financial year. For the same reported period, the municipality lost R150 million on water as result of leakages, theft, and non-payment. For the 2019/2020 financial year, the AG reported a loss of 75% of water for similar reasons. Sedibeng cuts water due to non-payment by the municipality.

Electricity sub-stations are vandalised almost daily, and this include three cases that occurred this morning. As a result, many streetlights in Welkom are not working and the city looks like a ghost town. However, no arrests have thus far been made in that regard.

Municipal telephones have not been working for a while now due to non-payment to service provider. The only telephone that is working is that of fire brigade. There is one fire station for the entire municipality consisting of six towns. Residents of Matjhabeng don't get their bills, and yet their connections are being cut. Law enforcement agency does not have enough fleet and this poses a challenge to effective patrolling and visible policing in the area. When the municipal enforcement agency reports these

crime cases, the South Africa Police Service claim that it is overwhelmed due to incapacity or inadequate personnel.

4.1.2. Relief sought by the Petitioner

The petitioners request that Matjhabeng Local Municipality must provide consistent service delivery to the residents of Matjhabeng .

4.1.3. Findings

The Acting Executive Mayor of Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Cllr. Mokhomo informed the Committee that Matjhabeng Local Municipality has requested assistance from the National Department of Water and Sanitation with challenges of water leakages and and appointment of contractors.

Mr. Pobe, Senior Manager at Matjhabeng Local Municipality reported that spending on grants has improved tremendously.

Ms. Van Wyk, Director at Matjhabeng Local Municipality informed the Committee that all five fire stations in the municipality, only one was destroyed, but the other four are still operational. The Mmamahabane fire station was not functioning as it was the one that was vandalized, but the municipality will repurpose the funding to improve it and adverts will be out soon for fire fighter positions at Mmamahabane.

The Committee was satisfied that there was progress being made by Matjhabeng Local Municipality in addressing complaints raised by the petitioners but emphasized the fact that it is important and necessary that fire stations facilities should be well equipped, and staff compliment to be fully addressed

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Committee resolved that, Committee on Governance must be made aware that they should be part of engagements to resolve the matter. Chairperson of the Committee indicated to the Matjhabeng Local Municipality that the Committee is aware that at some point, there was a meeting between the

municipality and the petitioners, therefore, the request is made for a detailed report on service delivery to be availed to the Committee,

2. That the report of Residents of Matjhabeng be adopted by the House.

