

# **LEKWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**



## **FINAL TARIFF BY-LAW 2025-2026**



## **PREAMBLE**

- (1) In terms of the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (hereinafter referred to as “the Constitution”), and section 75A(1) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, Act 32 of 2000 (hereinafter referred to as “the Systems Act”), the Lekwa Local Municipality (hereinafter referred to as “the Municipality”), is entitled to levy and recover fees, charges or tariffs in respect of any function or service of the Municipality.
- (2) In terms of the provisions of section 74(1) of the Systems Act and the provisions of section 62(1)(f)(i) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, Act 56 of 2003 (hereinafter referred to as “the MFMA”), the Municipality has adopted a Tariff Policy on the levying of fees, charges or tariffs on municipal services provided by the Municipality itself or by way of service delivery agreements.
- (3) This Tariff Policy adopted by the Municipality reflects the principles referred to in terms of the provisions of section 74(2) of the Systems Act and addresses the matter referred to in terms of the provisions of section 74(3) of the same Act, as well as a schedule containing the municipal tariffs of the

Municipality pertaining to the municipal services as set out in the Tariff Policy (also referred to as the “Tariff Schedule”).

- (4) The municipal tariffs as set out in the Annual Tariff Schedule of municipal tariffs annexed to the tariff policy must undergo annual revision and must be tabled together with the Multi-Year Annual Tabled Budget to the Council of the Municipality for consideration and approval thereof, subject to public participation and comments obtained annually before the 31<sup>st</sup> of March of each year in terms of the provisions of section 17(3)(a)(ii) read with the provisions of section 22 of the MFMA.
- (5) The adopted municipal tariffs apply to the Multi-Year Annual Budget in respect of a specific year during which the income is based on such adopted municipal tariffs, read with the general tariff principles contained in the tariff policy.
- (6) The Municipality adopted a Tariff Policy and a Tariff Schedule as referred to above and this by-law is adopted by the Municipality in terms of the provisions of section 75(1) of the Systems Act in order to give effect to the implementation and enforcement of the Tariff Policy.

# THE LEKWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY: TARIFF BY-LAW

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM NO.	ITEM	PAGE NO.
1.	DEFINITIONS	5
2.	THE TARIFF POLICY ADOPTED BY THE MUNICIPALITY	5
3.	OBJECTIVE OF THE BY-LAW	5
4.	TITLE AND APPLICATION OF THE BY-LAW	6
5.	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY	6
6.	COMMENCEMENT AND VALIDITY	6
7.	ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE WITH THIS BY-LAW	6
8.	POWERS OF THE MUNICIPALITY IN TERMS OF THE SYSTEMS ACT OR THIS BY-LAW	6
9.	OBSERVING FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS	7
10.	NON LIABILITY OF THE MUNICIPALITY	8
11.	CODE OF ETHICS	8
12.	AUTHENTICATION OF DOCUMENTS	8
13.	PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE	8
14.	PROVISION OF INFORMATION	9
15.	FALSE STATEMENTS OR INFORMATION	9
16.	OFFENCES	9
17.	PENALTY	10
18.	AVAILABILITY OF THE BY-LAW	11

# CONTENTS

## 1. DEFINITIONS

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The words and expressions used in this by-law shall have the respective meanings assigned to them in the Tariff Policy of the Municipality, and words or expressions to which a meaning has been assigned in terms of the provisions of section 1 of the Systems Act will have the meaning assigned thereto by the said act. All headings are included for convenience only and shall not be used in the interpretation of any of the provisions of this by-law.

## 2. THE TARIFF POLICY ADOPTED BY THE MUNICIPALITY

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This Municipality has prepared and adopted a policy, known as the Tariff Policy of the Municipality (also referred to as “the policy”), as contemplated in terms of the provisions of section 74(1) of the Systems Act. The policy comprehensively and in detail deals with and regulates the matters as prescribed in the provisions of sections 74(2), 74(3) and 75(2) of the Systems Act and therefore it is not necessary for this by-law to restate and repeat same.

Therefore and without repeating the contents of the policy, the contents of the policy are hereby incorporated into this by-law by reference and *mutatis mutandis* assigned the status of a by-law in as far as it is required for its implementation, enforcement and to be given effect to, as referred to in terms of the provisions of section 75(1) of the Systems Act.

The policy will be reviewed annually and approval is delegated to Council of Lekwa Local Municipality as Legislative Authority. Council with annual budget approve the reviewed budget policies in terms of section 21(1)(b)(ii)(bb) of Municipal Finance Management Act.

### **3. OBJECTIVE OF THE BY-LAW**

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The objective of this by-law is to give effect to the implementation and enforcement of the policy of the Municipality as required in terms of the provisions of section 75(1) of the Systems Act.

### **4. TITLE AND APPLICATION OF THE BY-LAW**

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- (1) This by-law is known as the Tariff By-Law of the Municipality.
- (2) This by-law revokes all previous by-laws, decisions and/or *ad hoc* clauses within any other by-law, regarding the subject matter of this by-law.

### **5. RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY**

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The responsible authority for the adoption, publication and implementation of this by-law is the Municipality and where applicable the municipal Council of the Municipality.

### **6. COMMENCEMENT AND VALIDITY**

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This by-law shall come into full force and effect upon publication hereof in accordance with the provisions of section 13 of the Systems Act.

## **7. ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE WITH THIS BY-LAW**

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The Municipality shall enforce compliance with this by-law.

## **8. POWERS OF THE MUNICIPALITY IN TERMS OF THE SYSTEMS ACT OR THIS BY-LAW**

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Where the Municipality executes any actions or conducts functions in terms of this by-law the Municipality may in addition to any rights and powers given to the Municipality in terms of the Systems Act or this by-law:

- (1) access any premises and/or execute work on and/or inspect any premises;
- (2) question a person present on any premises in respect of any matter which may be relevant to the work or inspection;
- (3) question a person whom the Municipality believes may have information relevant to the work or inspection;
- (4) inspect any document that a person is required to maintain in terms of any law or may be relevant to any work or inspection;
- (5) copy any document referred to in sub-section (4) above, or if necessary remove the document in order to copy it;
- (6) take photos or make audio-visual recordings of anything or any person, process, action or condition on or regarding any premises;

- (7) do whatsoever is necessary for the execution of work or the conducting of an inspection including removing any object or item from the premises, such as to enable the Municipality to do what is required to give effect to and/or enforce the provisions of this by-law.

## **9. OBSERVING FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS**

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The Municipality must, when exercising any right in terms of this by-law, do so with strict regard for decency and orderliness and with regard for each person's human rights including the right to dignity, freedom, security and privacy.

## **10. NON LIABILITY OF THE MUNICIPALITY**

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Neither the Municipality nor any employee, official, person, body, organisation or corporation acting on behalf of the Municipality shall be liable for any loss or damages of whatsoever nature howsoever arising whether, direct or consequential, suffered or sustained by any person as a result of or arising from the Municipality enforcing, imposing, giving effect to or taking any act or omission in respect of any matter in terms of this by-law.

## **11. CODE OF ETHICS**

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- (1) All the officials of the Municipality shall embrace the spirit of Batho Pele and treat all rate payers, owners, consumers, customers and debtors with dignity and respect at all times.

- (2) Employees of the Municipality shall execute their duties in terms of this policy in an honest and transparent manner whilst protecting the confidentiality of information of rate payers, owners, consumers, customers and debtors in accordance with the provisions of the Promotion of Access to Information Act, Act 2 of 2000.

## **12. AUTHENTICATION OF DOCUMENTS**

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Any document requiring authentication by the Municipality shall be sufficiently authenticated if signed by the Municipal Manager, or by a person duly authorised to do so, on behalf of the Municipality, by resolution of the Municipality and shall constitute *prime facie* proof of the authenticity, existence and contents of the document.

## **13. PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE**

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In legal proceedings by, or on behalf of the Municipality, a certificate reflecting any information required in terms of this by-law included in such a certificate and which is signed by the Municipal Manager, or by a person duly authorised to do so, on behalf of the Municipality, by resolution of the Municipality, shall subject to the provisions of section 3 of the Law of Evidence Amendment Act, Act 45 of 1988, upon its mere production constitute *prima facie* evidence of the contents of the certificate.

## **14. PROVISION OF INFORMATION**

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A rate payer, owner, consumer, customer and debtor or person within the municipal area the Municipality must provide the Municipality with accurate information requested by the Municipality that is reasonably required by the Municipality for the implementation or enforcement of this by-law.

## **15. FALSE STATEMENTS OR INFORMATION**

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No person shall make a false statement or furnish false information to the Municipality or falsify a document issued in terms of this by-law.

## **16. OFFENCES**

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- (1) It is an offence for any person to:
- (a) unlawfully and intentionally or negligently interfere with any actions taken by the Municipality in terms of this by-law;
  - (b) contravene or fail to comply with any provision of this by-law in as much as this by-law places an obligation or duty on such a person to comply with this by-law;
  - (c) contravene or fail to comply with a condition or prohibition imposed in terms of this by-law;
  - (d) contravene or fail to comply with any conditions imposed upon the granting of any application, consent, approval, concession, exemption, rebate or authority in terms of this by-law;
  - (e) fail to provide information or provide false or misleading information reasonably requested by the Municipality;
  - (f) fail or refuse to give access required by the Municipality in terms of the provision of this by-law;
  - (g) fail to comply with the terms of a notice served upon him/her in terms of this by-law;
  - (h) fail or refuse to provide the Municipality with a document or information that the Municipality is entitled to in terms of this by-law;
  - (i) disclose any information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person which information was acquired in the performance of any function or exercise of any power in terms of this by-law;

- (j) fail to comply with any lawful instruction given in terms of this by-law;  
or
  - (k) obstruct or hinder the Municipality in the execution of the Municipality's duties under this by-law.
- (2) Any alleged offence committed in terms of sub-section (1) above, may be referred to the South African Police Services by the Municipality for investigation with a view to possible prosecution.

## **17. PENALTY**

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A person who contravenes or fail to comply with a provision of this by-law, or commit an offence as set out in this by-law shall be liable on conviction to a fine or imprisonment, or in the case of any continued offence to a further fine or imprisonment for every day during the continuance of such offence.

## **18. AVAILABILITY OF BY-LAW**

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A copy of this by-law shall be included in the Municipality's Municipal Code as required by the provisions of section 15 of the Systems Act and a copy of this by-law shall be available for inspection at the offices of the Municipality at all reasonable times and shall also be available from the Municipality against payment of an amount as determined by the Council.

## **19. REGULAR REVIEW PROCESSES**

The Tariff By Law must be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that it complies with the Municipality's strategic objectives as contained in the IDP and with legislation.

**20. SHORT TITLE**

This By-Law is the Tariff By-Law of the Lekwa Municipality.

**21. ENFORCEMENT/IMPLEMENTATION**

This By-law takes effect on the date of the publication hereof in the provincial gazette or as otherwise indicated in the Notice hereo