

THABAZIMBI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



PROPERTY RATES POLICY 2026/2027

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PROPERTY RATES POLICY**

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1. LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

- 1.1. This policy is mandated by Section 3 of the Local Government: Municipal Property Rates Act, 2004 (No. 6 of 2004), which specifically provides that a municipality must adopt a Rates Policy.
- 1.2. In terms of Section 229 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (No.108 of 1996), a municipality may impose rates on property.
- 1.3. In terms of the Local Government: Municipal Property Rates Act, 2004 (No. 6 of 2004), a municipality in accordance with-
 - a. Section 2(1), may levy a rate on property in its area; and
 - b. Section 2(3), must exercise its power to levy a rate on property subject to-
 - i. Section 229 and any other applicable provisions of the Constitution;
 - ii. the provisions of the Property Rates Act and any regulations promulgated in terms thereof; and
 - iii. The rates policy.
- 1.4 In terms of Section 4 (1) (c) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (No. 32 of 2000), the municipality has the right to finance its affairs by imposing, *inter alia*, property rates.
- 1.5 In terms of Section 62(1)(f)(ii) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (No. 56 of 2003), the municipal manager must ensure that the municipality has and implements a rates policy.
- 1.6 This policy must be read together with and is subject to the stipulations of the Local Government: Municipal Property Rates Act, 2004 (No. 6 of 2004) and any regulations promulgated in terms thereof from time to time.
- 1.7 In terms of section 13 of the Local Government: Municipal System Act no.32 of 2000 as amended, the Thabazimbi Local Municipality hereby publishes the Property Rates By-laws set forth hereinafter, which have been made by the Municipality in terms of section 6 of the Local Government: Municipal Property Rates Act 6 of 2004.

PREAMBLE

Whereas:

- I It is enshrined in Section 229 of the Constitution (Act 108 Of 1996) that a municipality may impose rates on property within a regulatory framework.
- II The Municipal Property Rates Act, 2004 (Act no. 6 of 2004) (MPRA) provides the regulatory framework that the municipality must comply with when imposing rates on the property, which includes but is not limited to:
 1. II.1 The adoption of a rates policy will be implemented and made effective by way of a Rates By-Law;
 1. II.2 Criteria for the determination of categories of properties and differential rates for each category of properties.
 1. II.3 Criteria to be applied for granting rate relief measures;
 1. II.4 Levying of rates in sectional title schemes;
 - 1.II.5 Appointment of a municipal valuer for preparation of a general valuation roll and supplementary valuation roll(s).
- III In terms of section 4(1)(c)(ii) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act 32 of 2000), read with section 2 of the said Local Government Municipal Property Rates Act, the municipality has the right to finance the affairs of the municipality by imposing, inter alia, rates on property. In terms of section 4(2) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (32 of 2000), the council of a municipality, within the municipality's financial and administrative capacity and having regard to practical considerations, has the duty to-
 - 1.III. 1Exercise the municipality's executive and legislative authority and use the resources of the municipality in the best interests of the local community;
 - 1.III.2 Provide, without favor or prejudice, democratic and accountable government;
 - 1.III.3 Encourage the involvement of the local community;
 - 1.III.4 Strive to ensure that municipal services are provided to the local community in a financially and environmentally sustainable manner;
 - 1.III.5 Consult the local community about-

- 1.III.5.1 The level, quality, range and impact of municipal services provided by the municipality, either directly or through another service provider; and the available options for service delivery.
- 1.III.6 Give members of the local community equitable access to the municipal services to which they are entitled;
- 1.III.7 Promote and undertake development in the municipality;
- 1.III.8 Promote gender equity in the exercise of the municipality's executive and legislative authority;
- 1.III.9 Promote a safe and healthy environment in the municipality;
- 1.III.10 Contribute, together with other organs of state, to the progressive realization of the fundamental rights contained in sections 24, 25, 26, 27 and 29 of the Constitution; and
- IV Further, a municipality must, in the exercise of its executive and legislative authority, respect the rights of citizens and those of other people protected by the Bill of Rights.
- V In terms of section 62 of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Act, 2003 (Act 56 of 2003), the Municipal Manager must ensure that the municipality has and implements a rates policy embodied in a bylaw as per section 6 of the said Local Government: Municipal Property Rates Act.

2. DEFINITIONS

Definitions, words and expressions as used in the Act are applicable to this policy document wherever it is used;

- 2.1 “**Act**” means the Local Government: Municipal Property Rates Act, 2004 (Act No. 6 of 2004) as amended
- 2.2 “**Agricultural Property**” means a property that is used primarily for agricultural purposes, but, without derogating from section 9 of the Act, excludes any portion thereof that is used commercially for the hospitality of guests, and excludes the use of the property for ecotourism or for the trading in or hunting of game (Amended by s1 of Act 29 of 2014). In relation to Agricultural Property, as per the rates policy read in conjunction with the MPRA, agricultural property will be rated as per the Rate Ratio promulgated under Government Notice R. 363, published in Government Gazette No. 32061, Vol 525 of 27 March 2009, as amended by Government Notice No. R. 195 published in Government Gazette No. 33016, Vol. 537 of 12 March 2010.
- 2.3. “**Act**” means the Local Government: Municipal Property Rates Act, 2004 (Act No. 6 of 2004) as amended.
- 2.4. “**Bona fide Farmer**” refers to the active pursuit by a person /institution for primary income generation from agricultural activities on a specific property or a group of agricultural properties forming part of the specific farming activity.
- 2.5. “**Category**” (a) in relation to property, means a category of properties determined in terms of section 8: and (b) in relation to owners of properties, means a category of owners determined in section 15(2) of the Municipal Property Rates Act
- 2.6. “**Market value**”, in relation to a property, means the value of the property determined in accordance with section 46;
- 2.7. “**Municipal Council**” means elected members of the local legislature in terms of Chapter 4: Municipal Structures Act no 117 of 1998;
- 2.8. “**Municipality**” means the municipality of Thabazimbi Local Municipality MP325;
- 2.9. **Mining property** means a property used for mining operations as defined in the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002)

- 2.10. **Multiple-use properties** refer to properties where there is a combination of different categories of property on the same registered property and where the market value of each is apportioned on the valuation roll;
- 2.11. **MPRA** the Municipal Property Rates Act as amended
- 2.12. **“Permitted Use”**, in relation to a property, means the limited purposes for which the property may be used in terms of -
- a) any restrictions imposed by -
 - i) a condition of title;
 - ii) a provision of a town planning or land use scheme; or
 - iii) any legislation applicable to any specific property or properties;
- 2.13. **“Privately owned towns serviced by the owner”** means single properties, situated in an area not ordinarily being serviced by the municipality, divided through sub division or township establishment into (ten or more) full title stands and/ or sectional units and where all services inclusive of water, electricity, sewerage and refuse removal and roads development are installed at the full cost of the developer and maintained and rendered by the residents of such estate.
- 2.14. **“Ratio”**, in relation to section 19, means the relationship between the cent amount in the Rand applicable to residential properties and different categories of non-residential properties:
- 2.15. **“Residential property”** means improved property that:
- a) is used predominantly for residential purposes including any adjoining property registered in the name of the same owner and used together with such residential property as if it were one property. Any such grouping shall be regarded as one residential property for rate rebate or valuation reduction purposes.
 - b) is a unit registered in terms of the Sectional Title Act and used predominantly for residential purposes.
 - c) Is owned by a share-block company and used solely for residential purposes.
 - d) Is a residence used for residential purposes situated on property used for or related to educational purposes.

- e) And specifically exclude vacant land irrespective of its zoning or intended use.
- f) Residential property shall include smallholdings and farms used as residential unless the owner can provide sufficient proof to the Chief Financial Officer that he/she/it is conducting "bonafide" and sustainable farming activities on such property; provided that the keeping of animals or plants for sports and / or recreational activities shall not be deemed to be bonafide use for agricultural purposes; provided further any such activities that are merely incidental to the primary use of the property shall not be taken into account. In its exercising as to whether proof is provided the Chief Financial Officer shall "interalia" take the following into account in exercising its' discretion:
 - i) Income and expenditure statements
 - ii) The actual primary use of the property
 - iii) Provision of an income Tax Clearance Certificate issued by the South African Receiver of Revenue in respect of such agricultural activities.
- i) Where an uncompleted residential property has been erected or in progress of being erected a supplementary valuation will be done from time to time based on the value of the uncompleted structure. Upon completion or issuance of the occupation certificate, whichever comes 1st, a further supplementary valuation will be conducted to ensure a market-related value is assessed according to the correct category. Rating of these uncompleted residential properties will be done according to the zoning of the property as per 6.1 of this policy and the Act 8. (1) (a), (b) & (c)

2.16. **"Surveyed Property"** means properties which appear on the maps of the Surveyor General but are not yet registered with the South African Deeds Office.

2.17. **"Organ of State"** means an organ of state as defined in section 239 of the Constitution;

2.18. **"Vacant Land"** means land where no immovable improvements have been erected other than agricultural.

3. POLICY PRINCIPLES

3.1. Rates are levied in accordance with the Act as an amount in the rand based on the market value of all rateable property contained in the municipality's valuation roll and supplementary valuation roll.

3.2. As allowed for in the Act, the municipality has chosen to differentiate between various categories of property and categories of owners of property as contemplated in clause 7 and 8 of this policy. Some categories of property and categories of owners are granted relief from rates as contemplated in clauses 11 to 12 of this policy. The municipality, however, does not grant relief in respect of payments for rates to any category of owners or properties, or to owners of properties on an individual basis.

3.3. There would be no phasing in of rates based on the new valuation roll, except as prescribed by legislation and in accordance with clause 16 of this policy.

3.4. In accordance with section 3(3) of the Act, the rates policy for the municipality is based on the following principles:

(a) Equity

The municipality will treat all ratepayers with similar properties the same.

(b) Affordability

The ability of a person to pay rates will be considered by the municipality.

In dealing with the poor/indigent ratepayers, the municipality will provide relief measures through exemptions, reductions or rebates.

(c) Sustainability

Rating of property will be implemented in a way that:

- ii) it supports sustainable local government by providing a stable and buoyant revenue source within the discretionary control of the municipality; and
- iii) Supports local socioeconomic development.

(d) Cost efficiency

Rates will be based on the value of all rateable property and will be used to fund community and subsidised services after taking into account surpluses generated on trading (water, electricity) and economic (refuse removal, sewerage removal) services and the amounts required to finance exemptions, rebates, reductions and phasing-in of rates as approved by the municipality from time to time.

3.5. The use of property rates

It must be understood that property rates are a tax and are not linked to any specific service to be rendered. Municipalities collect property tax revenue to fund public health and public safety. Other uses of rates include installing and maintaining streets, pavements, lighting, and stormwater drainage, as well as building and operating clinics, parks, and recreational facilities. Rates also fund municipal administration, such as computer equipment and stationery, and the cost of governance, such as community and council meetings. Property rates fund services that benefit the community, rather than individual metered services for households.

4. SCOPE OF THE POLICY

- 4.1. This policy guides the annual setting (or revision) of property rates. It does not make specific proposals for property rates. Details pertaining to the applications of the various property rates are published in the Provincial Gazette and the municipality's schedule of tariffs, which must be read in conjunction with this policy.

5. APPLICATION OF THE POLICY

- 5.1 Council shall, as part of each annual operating budget component, impose a rate in rand on the market value of all rateable properties as recorded in the Municipality's Valuation Roll and Supplementary Valuation Rolls.
- 5.2 The Municipality shall grant exemptions, rebates and reductions to the categories of properties and categories of owners as allowed for in this policy document.
- 5.3 Rateable property shall include property on which a municipality may, in terms of section 2 of the Act, levy a rate, excluding property fully excluded from the levying of rates in terms of section 17 of the MPRA

6. DIFFERENTIAL RATES

- 6.1. In terms of section 19 of the MPRA, the municipality may levy different rates for different categories of rateable property as determined in subsections (2) and (3) of the Act, which categories **must** be determined according to the-
 - (a) use of the property;
 - (b) permitted use of the property/approved Zoning; or
 - (c) **a combination of (a) and (b)**

7. CATEGORIES OF PROPERTY

- 7.1 Different rates may be levied in respect of the following categories of rateable properties as prescribed in **section 8 of the Act**

Categories of rateable property for purposes of levying differential rates

- (a) Residential properties;
- (b) industrial properties;
- (c) business and commercial properties;
- (d) agricultural properties;
- (e) mining properties;
- (f) properties owned by an organ of state and used for public service purposes;
- (g) public service infrastructure properties;
- (h) properties owned by public benefit organizations and used for specified public benefit activities;
- (i) Agricultural properties use for eco-tourism and hunting / trading and rearing of game
- (i) properties used for multiple purposes, subject to section 9; or
- (j) any other category of property as may be determined by the Minister, with the concurrence of the Minister of Finance, by notice in the *Gazette*.

As per section 9.2 of the Act the following criteria will apply to the valuation and rating of multiple use properties within the Municipality:

- a) Apportionment of the market value of a property to the different purposes for which the property is used and;

- b) Application of the relevant rate to each of the components of the property, based on its value.

8. CATEGORIES OF OWNERS

- 8.1 For the purpose of granting exemptions, reductions and rebates in terms of clause 11, 12 and 13 of this policy, the categories of owners of properties are determined as follows:
 - 8.1.1 **Indigent** - owners who qualify and who are registered as indigent in terms of the adopted indigent policy of the municipality;
 - 8.1.2 Owners of property temporarily without income
 - 8.1.3 Owners of residential properties.
 - 8.1.4 Child-headed families where any child of the owner or a child who is a blood relative of the owner of the property is responsible for the care of siblings or parents of the household.
 - 8.1.5 Pensioners
 - 8.1.6 State Owned
 - 8.1.7 Educational
 - 8.1.8 Municipal Owned
 - 8.1.9 Privately Owned Towns
 - 8.1.10. Owners of Agricultural Property used for Residential Purposes
 - 8.1.11. Agricultural properties are used for ecotourism, hunting/trading, and the rearing of game.
- 8.2 Properties eligible to Rate Ratios
 - 8.2.1 Agricultural Properties

The rate applicable to agricultural property, as defined in the definition of farm property and as prescribed by the Municipal Property Rates Regulations, which took effect on 1 July 2009:

The ratio in relation to residential property is:

Residential property 1:1 Agricultural property 1:0.25

8.2.2 Public Benefit Organisation properties

The rate applicable to property registered as a Public Benefit Organisation, as prescribed by the Municipal Property Rates Regulations published in Government Notice No. 33016 of 12 March 2010, which took effect on 1 July 2010, may not exceed the ratio to the rate on residential properties, where the ratio in relation to residential property is:

Residential property 1:1 Public Benefit Organisation property 1:0.25

Tax certificate is required every year to confirm status.

9. DIFFERENTIAL RATING

9.1 Criteria for differential ratings on different categories of properties will be according to:

9.1.1 The nature of the property, including its sensitivity to rating, e.g. agricultural properties used for agricultural purposes.

9.1.2 The promotion of the municipality's social and economic development.

9.2 Differential rating among the various property categories will be done by way of setting a different cent amount in the rand for each property category; and

9.3 By way of reductions and rebates as provided for in this policy document.

10. EXEMPTIONS

10.1 The following categories of property are exempted from rates: -

(a) Municipal properties

Municipal **properties used by the municipality** are exempted from paying rates.

(b) Residential properties

All residential properties with a market value of less than R15 000 are exempted from paying rates.

The impermissible rates contemplated in terms of section 17(1) (h) of the Property Rates Act is included in the amount referred to above as annually determined by the municipality.

Exemption will automatically apply, and no application is thus required.

10.2 The following categories of owners are exempted from rates;

a) **Indigent owners** are exempted from rates on condition that: -

Owners who qualify and are registered as indigents in terms of the adopted municipal indigent policy, will be exempted from rates.

10.3 Impermissible Rates: In terms of section 17(1) of the Property Rates Act the municipality may, inter alia, not levy a rate: -

- a) On those parts of a special nature reserve, national park or nature reserve within the meaning of the Protected Areas Act, or of a national botanical garden within the meaning of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004, which are not developed or used for commercial, business, residential or agricultural purposes.
- b) On mineral rights within the meaning of paragraph (b) of the definition of “property” in section 1 of the Act.
- c) On a property belonging to a land reform beneficiary or their heirs, provided that this exclusion lapses ten (10) years from the date on which such beneficiary’s title was registered in the office of the Registrar of Deeds.
- d) A property registered in the name of a religious community and used primarily as a place of public worship may qualify for exemption from property rates. This includes an official residence registered in the name of that community, occupied by an office-bearer of that community who officiates at services at that place of worship. Such exemption shall be subject to the submission of a valid tax exemption certificate issued by the South Africa Revenue Service, as contemplated in Part 1 of the Ninth Schedule of the Income Tax Act.
- e) On the first R15 000 of the market value of a property assigned in the valuation roll or the supplementary valuation roll of a municipality to a category determined by the municipality for residential properties; and for properties used for multiple purposes, only on the component of the property used for residential purposes.

Note:

*93A. Transitional arrangement: Public service infrastructure (Added by s35 of Act 29 of 2014) (1)
The prohibition on levying rates on public service infrastructure referred to in section 17(1)(aA) must be phased in over five municipal financial years, with effect from the date of commencement of this Act. (Added by s35 of Act 29 of 2014)*

The percentage rebates granted to different gross monthly household income levels will be determined according to the schedule attached as Annexure “c”

11. REDUCTIONS

11.1 Reductions as contemplated in section 15 of the Act will be considered on an *ad-hoc* basis in the event of the following:

11.1.1 Partial to total destruction of a property to such an extent that it is totally uninhabitable.

11.1.2 Disasters as defined in the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act 57 of 2002).

11.2 The following conditions shall be applicable in respect of 11.1:

11.2.1 The owner referred to in 11.1.1 shall apply in writing for a reduction, and the onus will rest on the applicant to prove to the satisfaction of the municipality that their property has been totally or partially destroyed. They will also have to indicate to what extent the property can still be used and the impact on its value.

11.2.2 Property owners will only qualify for a rebate if affected by a disaster as referred to in the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002).

11.2.3 A maximum reduction, to be determined on an annual basis, will be allowed in respect of both 11.1.1 and 11.1.2.

11.2.4 An ad-hoc reduction will not be given for a period more than 6 months, unless the municipality gives further extension on application.

11.2.5 If rates were paid in advance before a reduction was granted, the municipality will give credit to such an owner from the date of the reduction until the date of lapse of the reduction, or the end of the period for which payment was made, whichever occurs first.

12. CATEGORIES OF OWNERS' REBATES

- a) Privately owned towns serviced by the owner

The municipality grants an additional rebate, to be determined annually, which applies to privately owned towns serviced by the owner, where the owner qualifies as defined in clause 2.4 of this policy. (if applicable)

- b) Agricultural property

The ratio referred to in Gazette Nos. 32061 and 32062, issued on 27 March 2009 and amended by regulation 9242 on 12 March 2010, provide that Public Service Infrastructure and Agricultural property, per the approved ratio, will have property rates payable by owners of bona fide farming properties set at 25% of the tariff charged to residential ratepayers. (No additional rebate will be given, as the ratio relates to a 75% rebate in relation to the residential rate charged, and the Municipality is in the process of phasing out the rebate for agricultural properties.)

- c) **Pensioners,**

Pensioners may receive a rebate as determined by the Council, subject to the following conditions: Applicants must be:

- i) Be registered owners of the property;
- ii) Must be 60 years or more of age upon application;
- iii) The property concerned must consist of one dwelling and no part thereof is sub-let, be occupied only by the applicant and his/her spouse, if any, and dependents without income;
- iv) Must submit proof of his/her age and a valid identity document;
- v) Must submit proof of monthly income from all sources (including the owner's spouse's income) and the total should not exceed the amount

indicated in the Indigent Policy.

- vi) The applicant's account must be paid in full, or if not, an arrangement to pay the debt should be in place; and
- vii) The property must be categorised as "residential".
- viii) Not be in receipt of an indigent assessment rate rebate;

Required proof and applications in the approved format to be submitted to the delegated official of the municipality.

- d) **Disability grantees and/or Medical boarded** people;

Disability grantees and/or Medical boarded people may receive a rebate as determined by the Council, subject to the following conditions:

- i) Be registered owners of the property;
- ii) Provide medical proof of disability and/or certification by a medical Officer of Health;
- iii) The property concerned must consist of one dwelling and no part thereof is sub-let, be occupied only by the applicant and his/her spouse, if any, and dependents without income;
- iv) Must submit proof of his/her age and a valid identity document;
- v) Must submit proof of monthly income from all sources (including the income of the spouse of the owner) and collectively should not exceed an amount of double the government grant as determined by Council in the municipal Indigent Policy.
- vi) The applicant's account must be paid in full, or if not, an arrangement to pay the debt should be in place; and
- vii) The property must be categorized as "residential".
- viii) Not be in receipt of an indigent assessment rate rebate; These rebates will lapse:
 - 1.viii.1 On death of applicant;

1.viii.2 On alienation of the property;

1.viii.3 When applicant ceases to reside permanently on the property;

1.viii.4 On 30 June of each year;

Required proof and applications in approved format to be submitted to the delegated official of the municipality.

e) Owners of Agricultural Property used for Residential Purposes

Rebate as per Annexure

13. PAYMENT OF RATES

13.1. The rates levied on the properties shall be payable:

a) monthly; or

13.2. The municipality shall determine the due dates for monthly payments.

13.3. Interest on arrears rates shall be calculated in accordance with the provisions of the municipality's credit control, debt collection and indigent policy.

13.4. If a property owner responsible for the payment of property rates in terms of this policy fails to pay such rates in the prescribed manner, the rates will be recovered from them in accordance with the provisions of the Municipality's Credit Control, Debt Collection and Indigent policy.

13.5. Arrears rates shall be recovered from tenants, occupiers and the owner's agents, in terms of sections 28 and 29 of the Act, as follows:

13.5.1. If an amount due for rates levied on a property is not paid by the owner by the due date shown on the account, and no response is received from the owner after two written reminders have been issued, the municipality shall recover the amount in full or in part as follows:

13.5.2. From the agent who is lawfully responsible for collecting commission or rent in respect of the property concerned;

13.5.2.1. From a tenant or occupier of the property, only after an attempt was made to collect it from an agent referred to in 13.5.1.1, but that attempt was unsuccessful, no such agent exists, or only a part of the outstanding amount could be recovered.

- 13.5.3. The recoverable amount is limited to the amount stipulated in the Act and may be recovered only after written notice has been served on the party concerned (tenant, occupier or agent) of the rates due and payable but not yet paid by the owner of the property.
- 13.5.4. The notice referred to in **13.5.2** shall give the party at least 14 calendar days to pay the outstanding rates.
- 13.6. Where the rates levied on a particular property have been incorrectly determined, whether because of an error or omission on the part of the municipality, false information provided by the property owner concerned, or a contravention of the permitted use to which the property concerned may be put, the rates payable shall be appropriately adjusted for the period extending from the date on which the error or omission is detected back to the date on which rates were first levied in terms of the current valuation roll.
- 13.7. In addition, where the error arose from false information provided by the property owner or from a contravention of the permitted use of the property concerned, interest on the unpaid portion of the adjusted rates payable shall be charged at the maximum rate permitted by prevailing legislation.

14. ACCOUNTS TO BE FURNISHED

- 14.1. The municipality will provide each person liable for the payment of rates with a written account, which will specify:
- (i) the amount due for rates payable;
 - (ii) the date on or before which the amount is payable;
 - (iii) how the amount was calculated;
 - (iv) the market value of the property; and
 - (v) rebates, exemptions, reductions or phasing-in, if applicable.
- 14.2. A person liable for payment of rates remains liable for such payment, whether or not that person has received a written account from the municipality. If the person concerned has not received a written account, they must make the necessary enquiries with the municipality.
- 14.3. In the case of joint ownership, the municipality shall, to minimise costs and unnecessary administration, consistently recover rates from only one of the joint owners, provided that this occurs with the consent of the owners concerned.

15. FREQUENCY OF VALUATION

- 15.1. The municipality shall prepare a new valuation roll every 5 (five) years, with the option, subject to the approval of the MEC for Local Government and Housing in the province, to extend the validity of the valuation roll to 7 (seven) years.
- 15.2. Supplementary valuations will be carried out on an ongoing basis to ensure that the valuation roll is properly maintained in accordance with section 78 of the MPRA.

16. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

- 16.1. Before the municipality adopts the rates policy, the municipal manager will follow the community participation process set out in chapter 4 of the Municipal Systems Act and comply with the following requirements:
 - 16.1.1. Conspicuously display the draft rates policy for at least 30 days at the municipality's head and satellite offices and libraries (and on the website).
 - 16.1.2. Advertise in the media a notice stating that the draft rates policy has been prepared for submission to council and that it is available at the various municipal offices and on the website for public inspection (property owners and interested persons may obtain a copy of the draft policy from the municipal offices during office hours for a prescribed fee per copy). Property owners and interested persons are invited to submit written comments or representations to the municipality within the specified period in the notice.
 - 16.1.3. Council will consider all comments and/or representations received when finalising the rates policy.

17. REGISTERS OF PROPERTIES

- 17.1. Under Section 23 of the MPRA, the municipality must draw up and maintain a register of all properties situated within the municipality's jurisdiction. The register will be divided into Part A and Part B.
- 17.2. Part A of the register will consist of the current valuation roll of the municipality and will include all supplementary valuations made from time to time.
- 17.3. Part B of the register will specify which properties on the valuation roll or any supplementary valuation roll are subject to:

- I Exemption from rates in terms of section 15 of the Property Rates Act,
- ii. Rebate or reduction in terms of section 15,
- iii. Phasing-in of rates in terms of section 21,
- and iv. Exclusions as referred to in section 17.

17.4. The register will be open for inspection by the public at the municipal main offices during office hours or on the website of the municipality.

17.5. The municipality will update Part A, and Part B will be updated on a continuous basis.

18. BY-LAWS TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE RATES POLICY

18.1. As required by section 6 of the MPRA, the municipality will adopt By-laws to give effect to the implementation of the Rates Policy, and such By-laws may differentiate between different categories of properties and different categories of owners of properties liable for the payment of rates.

19. REGULAR REVIEW PROCESSES

19.1. The rates policy must be reviewed annually to ensure that it complies with the Municipality's strategic objectives and legislation, and that it accommodates and takes into account the local economic factors within the Municipality's jurisdiction each year, before and during the budget process is finalised.

20. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

20.1. Council pledges to itself to limit each annual increase, as far as practicable, to the increase in the consumer price index over the period preceding the financial year to which the increase relates, and in accordance with the relevant legislation and any instruction from National Treasury.

20.2. Handling errors and omissions:

- a) If the rate charged on a specific property is incorrectly set—due to an error, omission by the municipality, false information from the property owner, or violation of the property's permitted use—the payable rates shall be adjusted

accordingly. This adjustment covers the period from when the error or omission was identified back to when the rates were initially levied under the current valuation roll. All adjustments must comply with the relevant legislation outlined in the Municipal Property Rates Act.

- b) Where the error occurred because of false information provided by the property owner or because of a contravention of the permitted use of the property concerned, clause 20.2(a) will apply, and interest on the unpaid portion of the adjusted rates payable shall be levied at the maximum rate permitted by prevailing legislation;
- c) In terms of section 78 of the Municipal Property Rates Act, an application fee is payable when requesting a review of a property valuation, as determined by the municipality's approved tariffs.

21. SECTION 118 NOTICE, CLEARANCE FIGURES AND DEBT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

When the property rates clearance figures are requested under Section 118, the municipality shall issue them in accordance with the Municipal System Act 32 of 2000 and the Municipal Property Rates Act 6 of 2004, detailing all outstanding property rates, levies, and other municipal charges. These amounts constitute the clearance figures required before any transfer or other property transaction.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DEBT

- a) The property owner must acknowledge the outstanding amounts by signing the acknowledgement of debt form or returning written confirmation.
- b) This acknowledgement confirms awareness of the debt but does not limit the municipality's right to recover any amounts in terms of applicable legislation.
- c) It remains the responsibility of the current owner to disclose to the new owner any outstanding amounts owing on the property. The municipality reserves the right to take all reasonable and lawful steps to recover any outstanding debt associated with the property in accordance with applicable legislation and municipal policies.

NOTICE CONTENT

The acknowledgement of debt form shall include:

- a. Property owner and property details
- b. A summary of outstanding charges and amounts
- c. A brief acknowledgement section for signatures or confirmation
- d. Instructions for returning acknowledgement and payment

ENFORCEMENT

Failure to acknowledge the debts does not prevent the municipality from initiating recovery actions in terms of applicable legislation, including:

- a. Thabazimbi Local Municipal Credit control and debt collection by law
- b. Municipal Property Rates Act 6 of 2004
- c. Municipal System Act 32 of 2000