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Surcharge by City is unregulated

DESIRÉE RORKE
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The dispute concerning the affordability of electricity tariffs in Cape Town, could not be mediated in terms of the National Energy Regulator's (Nersa) mandate last week, as it was revealed that the City's raised surcharges fell outside the Nersa mandate.

The meeting took place on Tuesday 11 September between Stop COCT representatives and a City representative.

The City reiterated its position that all components of the City's electricity tariffs and the fixed electricity charge of R163 were approved by Nersa and the City council according to law.

This fixed charge, the City says is not a surcharge, as believed by residents, but necessary to recover costs of providing electricity services.

However, a surcharge of 23 cents, was raised on the home user tariff in accordance with autonomous municipal legislation, which is not regulated by Nersa, the

City stated.

"A municipality may raise a surcharge on municipal services. Such a surcharge would be used to fund other services and would not be used to recover the costs of providing electricity," a City spokesperson said.

Sandra Dickson from Stop COCT, said many of their issues were not addressed as the City chose to have a single representative who was not capable to deal with the many issues raised by them.

"The electricity director, Dr Les Rencontré, could not deal with billing issues, the City's debt collection practices, public participation issues, electricity budget issues or the effect of the new property valuation roll on electricity tariffs.

To this, Mayco member for energy and climate Phindile Maxiti, explained that the meeting was held in terms of Nersa's authority under the Electricity Regulations Act, and that these issues were raised outside of this ambit.

Dickson said they had to accept that the City was going to only discuss the home

user tariff issue.

"For months Stop COCT has been asking questions around the discrepancy between the City's implemented tariffs across all blocks versus what Nersa publishes as approved tariffs on its website. Since 2016 the City's implemented electricity tariffs were between 2% and 18% higher than the Nersa approved tariffs. The example Dr Rencontré chose to explain this, was the home user charge. However, the City adds this 'unregulated' amount across the entire inclined block tariff, is used to set lifeline, domestic and home user tariffs," Dickson said.

Stop COCT's analysis indicates that since 2016 up to R0,32 was added, unregulated to each unit of electricity Capetonians purchased.

According to Maxiti, this unregulated portion referred to, is approved by the City council which is the approval authority in terms of legislation.

"It is not a new occurrence ... and is reflected in the budget," he said.

► Share your opinion at briewe@tygerburger.co.za.

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Vukajlovie says they wanted to bring the idea closer to home, following a human chain that was done in the city centre.

"We thought we should bring it closer to where we live as we have been affected one way or the other. We are calling on everyone to come out and show their support for victims of crime."

The gathering is open to anyone and those participating are encouraged to bring placards and flowers.

The flowers will be collected to be given to the family of Jesse Hess, the University of the West-

ern Cape (UWC) student that was recently murdered with her grandfather at his home.

Vukajlovie says personally she wants a harsher sentence for the perpetrators and no bail.

"We want more to be done now. It has been all talk, now we want action.

"Jail is an easy way out because the perpetrators still continue to be fed and looked after by our tax money. We want more to be done and we want to see justice," she says.

For more information message the hosts Tasha Vukajlovie or Nicole Trigg on Facebook.

Murder rate in province double the SA average

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The murder rate in the Western Cape remains critical with a 6.6% increase of 3974 reported cases, from last year's to 3 729 reported cases.

The crime statistics were released by the minister of police Bheki Cele on Thursday 12 September, and reflects reported crimes between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019.

The province ranks second in the country, with Gauteng still having the highest murder rate in the country with 4 495 reported cases.

Out of the top 30 murder precincts in the country, Nyanga (289), Delft (247) and Khayelitsha (221), occupies the top three positions, with Kraaifontein at number 12 (151).

Nyanga and Kraaifontein both indicate a slight decrease in the murder rate of respectively 6% and 18%.

A total of 4 649 rape cases were reported in the province, a decrease of 2%, from last year's 4 744.

Carjackings increased with 5.1%, with 2 294 cases reported in comparison to last year's 2 182 cases.

Reported home burglaries decreased with 7.6%, 39 418 cases in total, comparing to last year's 42 662 reported cases, while home robberies declined with 1.4% from 2 787 cases to 2 749 cases.

Coupled with this, business robberies also declined with 16.9% with 1 689 cases reported compared to last year's number of 2 033.

However, the number of crimes detected as a result of police actions, which should show an increase in success rates to indicate police effectiveness, showed an overall decrease of 27%. This category includes drug-related crimes, driving under the influence and possession of illegal firearms.

Drug-related crimes detected

as a result of police action decreased from 117 157 to 81 344.

A total of 12 561 drunk drivers were arrested province-wide, in comparison to last year's 12 776.

Western Cape premier Alan Winde and minister of community safety Albert Fritz said the crime statistics prove that police are failing to fight crime.

"Despite last year's promises from police minister Bheki Cele, violent crime in the Western Cape remains effectively unchanged," they said in a joint statement.

Winde commented: "I'm deeply concerned that murder increased by 6.6% in the Western Cape. Of these, 47% of incidents occurred in the precinct of just 10 police stations. The murder to population ratio in the Western Cape is 60 per 100 000 – almost double the national average."

Fritz said: "Murders reported in the Western Cape account for 18.9% of all murders in the country, while the province only accounts for 11.6% of the population. A total of 11 Western Cape police stations are recorded among the top 30 in the country.

This is unacceptable and points to the need for more boots on the ground and more regular statistics – at least quarterly, if not more regularly.

Fritz added the police needs to adopt evidence-based policing, which would lead to deployment at key times in key hot-spot locations. "We need our police to be in these hotspots before crimes are committed, not after."

A provincial safety plan, orchestrated by provincial government is in the pipeline "We will announce this plan soon. In the meantime, we continue our call for policing to become a provincial mandate as these statistics have shown that the nationally managed police have lost the war on crime."

► Share your opinion on the crime stats at briewe@tygerburger.co.za.

KENNISGEWING VAN 'N OMGEWINGS MAGTIGINGS PROSES (OMGEWINGS IMPAKSTUDIE – OIS)

VOORGESTELDE ONDERSESE TELEKOMMUNIKASIESTELSEL (EQUIANO KABELSTELSEL) WAT BY MELKBOSSTRAND OP DIE WESKUS VAN SUID-AFRIKA GELAND SAL WORD

Voorstander: Openserve ('n Afdeling van Telkom SA SOC Bpk)

Hiermee word kennisgewing aan die publiek gegee van die voorgestelde installasie van 'n ondersese telekommunikasiekabel, bekend as die Equiano Kabelstelsel, deur Openserve. Die Equiano Kabelstelsel is noodsaaklik om Suid-Afrika en die Weskus van Afrika met belangrike internasionale telekommunikasiepunke in Europa te verbind. As die aangewese Landingsvennoot van die Equiano Kabelstelsel in Suid-Afrika wil Openserve poog om die plaaslike permitte te verkry om die Equiano Kabelstelsel naby Melkbosstrand te land. Openserve, 'n afdeling van Telkom SA SOC Bpk, het die vereiste lisensies om hierdie stelsel in Suid-Afrika te bedryf.

Omgewingsmagtigingsproses

In terme van die OIS Regulasies, wat gepubliseer is onder die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur 1998 (Wet 107 van 1998) (WNOB; NEMA), (soos gewysig) benodig die voorgestelde ontwikkeling van die Equiano Kabelstelsel omgewingsmagtiging vir 'n aantal gelyste aktiwiteite in terme van die gelyste aktiwiteite in kennisgewing 1 (Nr. R. 327 van April 2017), kennisgewing 2 (Nr. R. 325 van April 2017), in terme van Artikel 24(2) en 24D van die wat WNOB vereis die onderneming van 'n Omgewingsimpakstudie (OIS; EIA) om omgewingsmagtiging te kry. Op grond van die huidige regulasies is die Nasionale Departement van Omgewing, Bosbou en Visserye (DOBV) die bevoegde owerheid vir die uitreiking van omgewingsmagtiging vir hierdie voorgestelde ontwikkeling. Indien 'n Watergebruiks lisensie vereis word, sal 'n aansoek in terme van Hoofstuk 4 van die Nasionale Waterwet, 1998 (Wet 36 van 1998), veral Artikel 40(4), by die Departement van Menslike Nedersettings, Water en Sanitasie ingedien word.

ACER sal namens Openserve die rol en verantwoordelikhede van Omgewingsimpakbeoordelingspraktisyn (OBP; EAP) vervul om die Omgewingsimpakstudie en die gepaardgaande openbare deelname proses te onderneem. Verder sal ACER verseker dat die vereiste aansoek- en ondersteunende dokumentasie aan die DOBV ingedien is vir oorweging en besluitneming.

Uitnodiging om Deel te Neem

Om verdere inligting te bekom oor die voorgestelde projek en om as 'n Belanghebbende en/of Geaffekteerde Party (B&GP) te registreer, kontak gerus die Openbare Deelname Kantoor deur middel van:

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Let asseblief daarop dat, in ooreenstemming met GNR 326, 42(a), 44 (1) en 19(1)(a) (7 April 2017), alle kommentaar wat ontvang word, in 'n verslag oor kommentaar en reaksies vervat sal word. Dit sal aan die bevoegde owerheid beskikbaar gestel word en as deel van die openbare oorsigproses van die OIS-verslae in die openbare domein geplaas word.

Datum van advertensie: 18 September 2019

