

PROPERTY RATES POLICY
(Adopted by council on 31 May 2016)



THEMBELIHLE

LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
PLAASLIKE MUNISIPALITEIT
U-MASIPALA WASEKUHALENI

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Local Government: Municipal Property Rates Act (2004) requires THEMBELIHLE MUNICIPALITY to develop and adopt a rates policy consistent with the Act on levying of rates on rateable property in the municipality.

1.2 In developing and adopting this rates policy, THEMBELIHLE MUNICIPALITY has sought to give effect to the sentiments expressed in the preamble of the Property Rates Act, namely that:

The Constitution enjoins local government to be developmental in nature, in addressing the service delivery priorities of our country and promoting the economic and financial viability of our municipalities;

There is a need to provide local government with access to a sufficient and buoyant source of revenue necessary to fulfil its developmental responsibilities;

Revenues derived from property rates represent a critical source of income for municipalities to achieve constitutional objectives, especially in areas neglected in the past because of racially discriminatory legislation and practices; and

It is essential that municipalities exercise their power to impose rates within a statutory framework which enhances certainty, uniformity and simplicity across the nation and which takes account of historical imbalances and the burden of rates on the poor.

1.3 In applying its rates policy, the Council shall adhere to all requirements of the Property Rates Act, 2004 (Act no. 6 of 2004) including any regulations promulgated in terms of the Act.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 In this Policy, a word or expression derived from a word or expression defined in this subsection has a corresponding meaning unless the context indicates that another meaning is intended:

“agent”, in relation to the owner of a property, means a person appointed by the owner of the property—

(a) to receive rental or other payments in respect of the property on behalf of the owner; or

(b) to make payments in respect of the property on behalf of the owner;

“agricultural purpose”, in relation to the use of a property, excludes the use of a property for the purpose of eco-tourism or for the trading in or hunting of game;

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“annually” means once every financial year;

“appeal board” means a valuation appeal board established in terms of section 56;

“assistant municipal valuer” means a person designated as an assistant municipal valuer in terms of section 35(1) or (2);

“category” —

(a) in relation to property, means a category of properties determined in terms of section; and

(b) in relation to owners of properties, means a category of owners determined in terms of section 15(2);

“data-collector” means a person designated as a data-collector in terms of section 36;

“date of valuation” means the date determined by a municipality in terms of section 31(1);

“district management area” means a part of a district municipality which in terms of section 6 of the Municipal Structures Act has no local municipality and is governed by that municipality alone;

“district municipality” means a municipality that has municipal executive and legislative authority in an area that includes more than one municipality, and which is described in section 155(1) of the Constitution as a category C municipality;

“effective date”—

(a) in relation to a valuation roll, means the date on which the valuation roll takes effect in terms of section 32(1); or

(b) in relation to a supplementary valuation roll, means the date on which a supplementary valuation roll takes effect in terms of section 78(2)(b);

“exclusion”, in relation to a municipality’s rating power, means a restriction of that power as provided for in section 17;

“exemption”, in relation to the payment of a rate, means an exemption granted by a municipality in terms of section 15;

“financial year” means the period starting from 1 July in a year to 30 June the next year;

“Income Tax Act” means the Income Tax Act, 1962 (Act No. 58 of 1962);

“land reform beneficiary”, in relation to a property, means a person who—

(a) acquired the property through—

(i) the Provision of Land and Assistance Act, 1993 (Act No. 126 of 1993); or

(ii) the Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994 (Act No. 22 of 1994);

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- (b) holds the property subject to the Communal Property Associations Act, 1996 (Act No. 28 of 1996); or
- (c) holds or acquires the property in terms of such other land tenure reform legislation as may pursuant to section 25(6) and (7) of the Constitution be enacted after this Act has taken effect;

“**land tenure right**” means an old order right or a new order right as defined in section 1 of the Communal Land Rights Act, 2004;

“**local community**”, in relation to a municipality—

- (a) means that body of persons comprising—
 - (i) the residents of the municipality;
 - (ii) the ratepayers of the municipality;
 - (iii) any civic organisations and non-governmental, private sector or labour organisations or bodies which are involved in local affairs within the municipality; and
 - (iv) visitors and other people residing outside the municipality who, because of their presence in the municipality, make use of services or facilities provided by the municipality; and
- (b) includes, more specifically, the poor and other disadvantaged sections of such body of persons;

“**local municipality**” means a municipality that shares municipal executive and legislative authority in its area with a district municipality within whose area it falls, and which is described in section 155(1) of the Constitution as a category B municipality;

“**market value**”, in relation to a property, means the value of the property determined in accordance with section 46;

“**MEC for local government**” means the member of the Executive Council of a province who is responsible for local government in that province;

“**Minister**” means the Cabinet member responsible for local government;

“**multiple purposes**”, in relation to a property, means the use of a property for more than one purpose;

“**municipal council**” or “**council**” means a municipal council referred to in section 18 of the Municipal Structures Act;

“**Municipal Finance Management Act**” means the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003);

“**municipality**”—

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- (a) as a corporate entity, means a municipality described in section 2 of the Municipal Systems Act; and
- (b) as a geographical area, means a municipal area demarcated in terms of the Local Government: Municipal Demarcation Act, 1998 (Act No. 27 of 1998);

the THEMBELIHLE MUNICIPALITY.

“municipal manager” means a person appointed in terms of section 82 of the Municipal Structures Act;

“Municipal Structures Act” means the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (Act No. 117 of 1998);

“Municipal Systems Act” means the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000);

“municipal valuer” or **“valuer of a municipality”** means a person designated as a municipal valuer in terms of section 33(1);

“newly rateable property” means any rateable property on which property rates were not levied before the end of the financial year preceding the date on which this Act took effect, excluding—

- (a) a property which was incorrectly omitted from a valuation roll and for that reason was not rated before that date; and
- (b) a property identified by the Minister by notice in the *Gazette* where the phasing-in of a rate is not justified;

“occupier”, in relation to a property, means a person in actual occupation of a property, whether or not that person has a right to occupy the property;

“organ of state” means an organ of state as defined in section 239 of the Constitution;

“owner”—

- (a) in relation to a property referred to in paragraph (a) of the definition of “property”, means a person in whose name ownership of the property is registered;
- (b) in relation to a right referred to in paragraph (b) of the definition of “property”, means a person in whose name the right is registered;
- (c) in relation to a land tenure right referred to in paragraph (c) of the definition of “property”, means a person in whose name the right is registered or to whom it was granted in terms of legislation; or
- (d) in relation to public service infrastructure referred to in paragraph (d) of the definition of “property”, means the organ of state which owns or controls that public service infrastructure as envisaged in the definition of “publicly controlled”,

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provided that a person mentioned below may for the purposes of this Act be regarded by a municipality as the owner of a property in the following cases:

- (i) A trustee, in the case of a property in a trust excluding state trust land;
- (ii) an executor or administrator, in the case of a property in a deceased estate;
- (iii) a trustee or liquidator, in the case of a property in an insolvent estate or in liquidation;
- (iv) a judicial manager, in the case of a property in the estate of a person under judicial management;
- (v) a curator, in the case of a property in the estate of a person under curatorship;
- (vi) a person in whose name a usufruct or other personal servitude is registered, in the case of a property that is subject to a usufruct or other personal servitude;
- (vii) a lessee, in the case of a property that is registered in the name of a municipality and is leased by it; or
- (viii) a buyer, in the case of a property that was sold by a municipality and of which possession was given to the buyer pending registration of ownership in the name of the buyer;

“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; or
- (b) any alleviation of any such restrictions;

“person” includes an organ of state;

“prescribe” means prescribe by regulation in terms of section 83;

“property” means—

- (a) immovable property registered in the name of a person, including, in the case of a sectional title scheme, a sectional title unit registered in the name of a person;
- (b) a right registered against immovable property in the name of a person, excluding a mortgage bond registered against the property;
- (c) a land tenure right registered in the name of a person or granted to a person in terms of legislation; or

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(d) public service infrastructure;

“**property register**” means a register of properties referred to in section 23;

“**protected area**” means an area that is or has to be listed in the register referred to in section 10 of the Protected Areas Act;

“**Protected Areas Act**” means the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003;

“**publicly controlled**” means owned by or otherwise under the control of an organ of state, including —

(a) a public entity listed in the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No. 1 of 1999);

(b) a municipality; or

(c) a municipal entity as defined in the Municipal Systems Act;

“**public service infrastructure**” means publicly controlled infrastructure of the following kinds:

(a) national, provincial or other public roads on which goods, services or labour move across a municipal boundary;

(b) water or sewer pipes, ducts or other conduits, dams, water supply reservoirs, water treatment plants or water pumps forming part of a water or sewer scheme serving the public;

(c) power stations, power substations or power lines forming part of an electricity scheme serving the public;

(d) gas or liquid fuel plants or refineries or pipelines for gas or liquid fuels, forming part of a scheme for transporting such fuels;

(e) railway lines forming part of a national railway system;

(f) communication towers, masts, exchanges or lines forming part of a communications system serving the public;

(g) runways or aprons at national or provincial airports;

(h) breakwaters, sea walls, channels, basins, quay walls, jetties, roads, railway or infrastructure used for the provision of water, lights, power, sewerage or similar services of ports, or navigational aids comprising lighthouses, radio navigational aids, buoys, beacons or any other device or system used to assist the safe and efficient navigation of vessels;

(i) any other publicly controlled infrastructure as may be prescribed; or

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- (j) rights of way, easements or servitudes in connection with infrastructure mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (i);

“rate” means a municipal rate on property envisaged in section 229(1) (a) of the Constitution;

“rateable property” means property on which a municipality may in terms of section 2 levy a rate, excluding property fully excluded from the levying of rates in terms of section 17;

“rebate”, in relation to a rate payable on a property, means a discount granted in terms of section 15 on the amount of the rate payable on the property;

“reduction”, in relation to a rate payable on a property, means the lowering in terms of section 15 of the amount for which the property was valued and the rating of the property at that lower amount;

“register”—

(a) means to record in a register in terms of—

- (i) the Deeds Registries Act, 1937 (Act No. 47 of 1937); or
- (ii) the Mining Titles Registration Act, 1967 (Act No. 16 of 1967); and

(b) includes any other formal act in terms of any other legislation to record—

- (i) a right to use land for or in connection with mining purposes; or
- (ii) a land tenure right;

“residential property” means a property included in a valuation roll in terms of section 48 (2) (b) as residential;

“Sectional Titles Act” means the Sectional Titles Act, 1986 (Act No. 95 of 1986);

“sectional title scheme” means a scheme defined in section 1 of the Sectional Titles Act;

“sectional title unit” means a unit defined in section 1 of the Sectional Titles Act;

“specified public benefit activity” means an activity listed in item 1 (welfare and humanitarian), item 2 (health care) and item 4 (education and development) of Part 1 of the Ninth Schedule to the Income Tax Act;

“state trust land” means land owned by the state—

- (a) in trust for persons communally inhabiting the land in terms of a traditional system of land tenure;
- (b) over which land tenure rights were registered or granted; or
- (c) which is earmarked for disposal in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994 (Act No. 22 of 1994);

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“**this Act**” includes regulations made in terms of section 83.

3. ADOPTION AND CONTENTS OF RATES POLICY

3.1 The THEMBELIHLE MUNICIPALITY will adopt a policy on levying rates on rateable property in the THEMBELIHLE municipal area.

3.2 The rates policy shall:

treat persons liable for rates equitably;

determine the criteria to be applied by the municipality if it –

levies different categories of properties;

exempts a specific category of owners of properties, or the owners of a specific category of properties, from payment on their properties;

grants to a specific category of owners of properties, or to the owners of a specific category of properties, a rebate on or a reduction in the rate payable in respect of their properties; or

increases rates;

determine, or provide criteria for the determination of –

categories of properties for the purpose of levying different rates as contemplated in paragraph (b)(i); and

categories of owners of properties, or categories of properties, for the purpose of granting exemptions, rebates and reductions as contemplated in paragraph (b)(ii) or (iii);

determine how the municipality’s powers in terms of section 9(1) must be exercised in relation to properties used for multiple purposes;

identify and quantify in terms of cost to the municipality and any benefit to the local community—

exemptions, rebates and reductions;

exclusions referred to in section 17(1)(a),(e),(g), (h) and (i) of the Act; and

rates on properties that must be phased in, in terms of section 21 of the Act;

take into account the effect of rates on the poor and include appropriate measures to alleviate the rates burden on them;

take into account the effect of rates on organisations conducting specified public benefit activities and registered in terms of the Income Tax Act for tax reductions because

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of those activities, in the case of property owned and used by such organisations for those activities;

take into account the effect of rates on public service infrastructure;

allow the municipality to promote local, social and economic development; and

identify, on a basis as may be prescribed, all rateable properties in the municipality that are not rated in terms of section 7(2)(a) of the Act .

- 3.3 Any exemptions, rebates or reductions referred to in subsection (3) and provided for in a rates policy adopted by a municipality must comply and be implemented in accordance with a national framework that may be prescribed after consultation with organised local government.
- 3.4 Council may not grant relief in respect of the payment of a rate –
to a category of owners of properties, or to the owners of a category of properties, other than by way of an exemption, a rebate or a reduction provided for in its rates policy and granted in terms of section 15 of the Act; or
to the owners of properties on an individual basis.

4. LEVYING OF RATES

4.1 Rates payable

The THEMBELIHLE MUNICIPALITY shall as part of each annual operating budget component impose a rate in the rand on the market value of all rateable property as recorded in the municipality's valuation roll and supplementary valuation roll.

Rates to be levied on all rateable property

THEMBELIHLE MUNICIPALITY may levy rates on all rateable property in its area.

Section 7(1) of the Act does not--

- (a) oblige the municipality to levy rates on—
properties of which that municipality is the owner;
public service infrastructure owned by a municipal entity;
properties referred to in paragraph (b) of the definition of “property” in section 1 of the Act; or
properties in respect of which it is impossible or unreasonably difficult to establish a market value because of legally insecure tenure resulting from past racially discriminatory laws or practices; or
- (b) prevent a municipality from granting in terms of section 15 exemptions from, rebates on or reductions in rates levied in terms of subsection 4.1 of this policy.

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Differential rates

- (1) Subject to section 19 of the Act, a municipality may levy rates for different categories of rateable property, which may include categories determined according to the—
 - use of the property;
 - permitted use of the property; or
 - geographical area in which the property is situated.

- (2) Categories of rateable property may include the following:
 - residential properties;
 - industrial properties;
 - business and commercial properties;
 - farm properties used for—
 - agricultural purposes;
 - other business and commercial purposes;
 - residential purposes; or
 - purpose other than those specified in subparagraphs (i) to (iii);
 - farm properties not used for any purpose;
 - smallholdings used for—
 - agricultural purposes;
 - residential purposes;
 - industrial purposes;
 - business and commercial purposes; or
 - purposes other than those specified in subparagraphs (i) to (iv);
 - state-owned properties;
 - municipal properties;
 - public service infrastructure;
 - privately owned towns serviced by the owner;
 - formal and informal settlements;
 - communal land as defined in section 1 of the Communal Land Rights Act, 2004;
 - state trust land;
 - protected areas;
 - properties on which national monuments are proclaimed;

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properties owned by public benefit organisations and used for any specific public benefit activities listed in Part 1 of the Ninth Schedule to the Income Tax Act; or

properties used for multiple purposes.

Properties used for multiple purposes

A property used for multiple purposes will, for rates purposes, be assigned to a category determined on an ad-hoc basis by the municipality, subject to section 9 of the Act.

Levying of rates on property in sectional title schemes

A rate on a property which is subject to a sectional title scheme will be levied on the body corporate for the current valuation roll or supplementary valuation roll. With the implementation of the new valuation roll, a rate on a property which is subject to a sectional title scheme will be levied on the individual sectional title units in the scheme and not on the property as a whole. This does not apply in respect of rates levied against a valuation roll or supplementary roll prepared before the effective date of the first valuation roll as prepared in terms of the Act. This process will be phased in over a period of four years counting from the date of implementation of the Property Rates Act 2004, (Act no. 6 of 2004).

Period for which rates may be levied

THEMBELIHLE MUNICIPALITY will levy the rate for a financial year. The levying of rates forms part of this municipality's annual budget process as set out in Chapter 4 of the Municipal Finance Management Act.

Exemptions, reductions and rebates

- (a) In imposing the rate in the rand for each annual operating budget component, the council shall grant the following exemptions, rebates and reductions to the categories of properties and categories of owners indicated below, but the council reserves the right to amend these exemptions, rebates and reductions if the circumstances of a particular budget so dictate.

- (b) In determining whether a property forms part of a particular category indicated below, the council shall have regard to the actual use to which the relevant property is put. In the case of vacant land not specifically included in any of the categories indicated below, the permitted use of the property shall determine into which category it falls.

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- (c) Such exemptions, reductions and rebates must be indicated in the tariff and rate schedule approved by the council annually.

Exemptions

The following categories of owners of properties may be exempted from payment of a rate on their properties:

properties on which national monuments are situated, and where no business or commercial activities are conducted in respect of such monuments;

properties owned by public benefit (welfare/humanitarian) organisations and used to further the objectives of such organisations; or

- (iii) properties of which the Municipality is the owner;
- (iv) public service infrastructure owned by the Municipality;
- (v) properties in respect of which it is impossible or unreasonable difficult to establish a market value because of legally insecure tenure attributable to past racially discriminatory laws or practices;

Council may in terms of the Municipal Property Rates Act, 2004, identify other properties to be exempted from payment of a rate.

Reductions and rebates

Reductions and rebates on rates may be granted to the following categories of owners of properties:

indigent owners;

owners dependant on pensions or social grants for their livelihood;

owners temporarily without income;

owners of property situated within an area affected by—

- (i) a disaster within the meaning of the Disaster Management Act, 2002(Act No. 57 of 2002); or
 - (ii) any other serious adverse social or economic conditions;
- (e) owners of residential properties with a market value lower than an amount determined by council;

properties on which national monuments are situated, but where business or commercial activities are conducted in respect of such monuments;

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agricultural properties, but the following criteria has to be applied by Council in respect of such rebates:

- (i) the extent of services provided by Council in respect of such properties;
- (ii) the contribution of agriculture to the local economy;
- (iii) the extent to which agriculture assists in meeting the service delivery and development obligations of the council; and
- (iv) the contribution of agriculture to the social and economic welfare of farm workers;

state-owned properties; or

formal and informal settlements.

Other impermissible rates

- (a) Council may not levy a rate:
 - (i) on the first 30% of the market value of public service infrastructure with effect from the implementation of the valuation roll compiled in terms of this Act;
 - (ii) on those parts of a special nature reserve, national park or nature reserve within the meaning of the Protected Areas Act, or of a botanical garden within the meaning of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004, which are not developed or used for commercial, business, agricultural or residential purposes;
 - (iii) on a property registered in the name of and used primarily as a place of public worship by a religious community, including an official residence registered in the name of that community which is occupied by an office-bearer of that community who officiates at services at that place of worship with effect from the implementation of the valuation roll compiled in terms of this Act;.
- (b) In addition to the foregoing, and as from 1 JULY 2015, the first R30 000 of the market value of all residential properties and of all properties used for multiple purposes, provided one or more components of such properties are used for residential purposes, is exempt from payment of rates in terms of Section 17(1)(h) of the Property Rates Act.
- (c) In respect of indigents' property rates, the rebate shall be 100% of the rates based on the rateable value up to R60 000 and 75% of the rates based on the rateable value above R60 000.

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4.8 Reporting

- (a) The municipal manager must annually table in the Council:
 - (i) a list of all exemptions, reductions and rebates granted by the municipality during the previous financial year; and
 - (ii) a statement reflecting the income, which the municipality has forgone during the previous financial year by way of such exemption, reductions and rebates.
- (b) All exemptions, reductions and rebates projected for a financial year must be reflected in the municipality's annual budget for that year as income on the revenue side and expenditure on the expenditure side.

4.9 Limits on annual increases of rates

Council shall, in imposing the rate for each financial year, revert to the requirements of Section 20 of the Act.

5. LIABILITY FOR RATES

Method and time of payment

THEMBELIHLE MUNICIPALITY shall recover rates on a monthly basis, calculated in 12 equal monthly instalments, payable on/or before due date as depicted on the monthly statement. Council can recover a rate annually, as may be agreed to with the owner of that property, and will be payable on or before 30 September of that current year.

Accounts to be furnished

5.2.1 THEMBELIHLE MUNICIPALITY shall furnish each person liable for the payment of a rate with a written account specifying—

- (a) the amount due for rates payable;
- (b) the date on or before which the amount is payable;
- (c) how the amount was calculated;
- (d) the market value of the property;
- (e) if the property is subject to any compulsory phasing-in discount in terms of section 21 of the Act, the amount of the discount.

5.2.2 An owner is liable for payment of a rate whether or not that person has received a written account. The furnishing of accounts for rates in terms of this section is subject to section 102 of the Municipal Systems Act.

Recovery of rates in arrears from tenants, occupiers and agents

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- 5.3.1 If an amount due for rates levied in respect of a property is unpaid by the owner of the property after the date determined, council may recover the amount in whole or in part from a tenant or occupier of the property, despite any contractual obligation to the contrary on the tenant or occupier. An amount may only be recovered after council has served a written notice on the tenant or occupier.
- 5.3.2 The amount that council may recover from the tenant or occupier of the property is limited to the amount of the rent or other money due and payable, but not yet paid, by the tenant or occupier to the owner of the property. Any amount council recovers from the tenant or occupier of the property must be set off by the tenant or occupier against any money owned by the tenant or occupier to the owner.
- 5.3.3 The tenant or occupier of a property must, on request by council, furnish council with a written statement specifying all payments to be made by the tenant or occupier to the owner of the property for rent or other money payable on the property during a period determined by council.
- 5.3.4 Council may, despite the Estate Agents Affairs Act, 1976 (Act No. 112 of 1976), recover the amount due for rates on a property in whole or in part from the agent of the owner, but only after council has served a written notice to this effect, on the agent.
- 5.3.5 The amount council can recover from the agent is limited to the amount of any rent or other money received by the agent on behalf of the owner, less any commission due to the agent.
- 5.3.6 The agent must, on request by council, furnish council with a written statement specifying all payments for rent on the property and any other money received by the agent on behalf of the owner during a period determined by council.

Amendment of rates

- (a) The policy will be phased in over a period of three (3) years and the municipality shall not distinguish between the differences in levying rates on the market value of land and improvements respectively in this period.
- (b) 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 or 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

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the current valuation roll. In addition, where the error occurred because of false information provided by the property owner or as a result of a contravention of the permitted use of the property concerned, interest on the unpaid portion of the adjusted rates payable shall be levied at the maximum rate permitted by prevailing legislation.

6. GENERAL VALUATION OF RATEABLE PROPERTY

6.1 Frequency of valuations

THEMBELIHLE MUNICIPALITY shall prepare a new valuation roll every 4 (four) years and supplementary valuation rolls at least every 12 (twelve) months.

Designation of municipal valuer

Council must, before the date of valuation, designate a person as municipal valuer. An open, competitive and transparent process in accordance with Chapter 11 of the Municipal Finance Management Act will be followed in appointing said valuer.

Valuation

Property must be valued in accordance with generally recognised valuation practices, methods and standards, and the provisions of the Act.

Sebata System

The Sebata computer program is in use at THEMBELIHLE MUNICIPALITY to assist in the valuation process. This computer program uses property data as it occurs on council's financial database. After data was collected during physical inspection of the properties and captured into the Sebata program, properties are electronically valued. Information applicable to management is now available. The valuation roll is then printed and available for public inspection. Notices are generated by the system for delivery to the property owners. After completion of the valuation process, the information is electronically transferred to council's financial database.

Interim valuation debits

When property is transferred to a new owner and a supplementary valuation is conducted at the same time, council shall hold the previous as well as the new owner, jointly and severally liable for the amount due in respect of the interim account.

Clearance certificate

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- (a) A rates clearance certificate will be issued in terms of Section 118 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000, Act No. 32 of 2000, and will be valid till 30 June, following the date of application received.
- (b) If an amount liable for rates levied in respect of a property which formed part of a Municipal Housing Scheme, is unpaid by the owner and the property needs to be transferred, a rates clearance certificate will only be issued upon payment of the current account and after completion of an agreement for any municipal services in arrears, subject to Council's Credit Control and Debt Collecting Policy. Transfers affected may be one of the following:
 - (i) Transfer of a property from the THEMBELIHLE MUNICIPALITY to the new owner;
 - (ii) Transfer of a property from one spouse to the other;
 - (iii) Transfer of a property from the owner (parent) to a child.

7. BY-LAWS

- 7.1 The principle contained in this policy will be reflected in the various by-laws as promulgated and adjusted by Council from time to time.