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**For: Immediate Release**

**Date: Friday, 28 March 2025**

## **CLARIFICATION ON SMART METERS & UPCOMING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ROADSHOW**

Walter Sisulu Local Municipality (WSLM) is aware of the concerns raised by some community members regarding the installation of electricity smart meters, with reports of residents blocking or refusing installations. The municipality would like to reassure all residents that smart meters are being introduced to enhance service delivery, improve billing accuracy, and provide better electricity management – not to increase electricity consumption.

Smart meters are part of WSLM's commitment to modernising infrastructure and ensuring fair and transparent electricity usage. These devices will eliminate estimated billing, allow residents to track electricity consumption in real-time, and provide early notifications when units are running low.

To address concerns and provide clarity, WSLM will be embarking on a Smart Meter Information Roadshow across communities. This initiative will allow residents to:

- Gain a clear understanding of how smart meters work.
- Raise questions and receive direct responses from municipal officials.
- Learn how smart meters improve electricity management and service delivery.

The municipality emphasizes that the installation of smart meters is a necessary and mandated process to improve electricity supply management. Obstructing or refusing installations causes delays that affect the entire community. Residents are urged to cooperate with installation teams to ensure a smooth rollout.

Furthermore, tampering with, removing, or blocking the installation of smart meters is unlawful and may result in penalties.

**Issued by:** WSLM Communication