



**DIPALESING LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

**UNCLAIMED DEPOSITS**

**POLICY**

**2025/2026**

## CONTENTS

1. Definitions
2. Introduction
3. Objectives of the policy
4. Legislative framework
5. Identification of unclaimed monies
6. Register of unclaimed money
7. Unclaimed money to be paid as public revenue
8. Review
9. Short title

### 1. DEFINITIONS

*"council"* means a municipal council established in section 18 of the Municipal

Structures Act and referred to in section 157(1) of the Constitution. *"creditor"* means a person to whom money is owed to by the municipality. *"customer"* means any person comprising:

1. (a) resident of the municipality;
2. (b) ratepayer of the municipality;
3. (c) any civic organization involved in the municipality; and/or
4. (d) any visitor or other people who make use of services or facilities

provided by the municipality.

*"municipality"* means the Dipaleseng Local Municipality established in terms of section 155 of the Constitution.

*"primary bank account"* means a bank account referred to in section 8(1) of the Municipal Finance Management Act.

*"register"* means the official register kept to receipt all unclaimed deposits.

### 2. INTRODUCTION

Unclaimed monies is a challenge faced by the municipality where monies are deposited into the municipal primary bank account or paid which cannot be identified nor are claimed by any consumer or creditor of the municipality. Monies are unclaimed for various reasons and commonly arise amongst other things from the following:

- ♣ •Monies deposited into the municipal primary bank account without any reference or documentary proof.
- ♣ •Amounts/deposits payable to consumers or creditors which were either not claimed or banked.
- ♣ •Creditors/consumers are unaware of their legal right to the monies.
- ♣ •Cannot be identified and allocated to an account or vote.
- ♣ •Deposits paid for utilization of facilities not claimed by customer.

### **3. OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY**

The objectives of the policy are to:

- ♣ •To provide a framework on how to deal with unknown or unclaimed monies in the municipal bank account.
- ♣ •To reduce the liability of the municipality.
- ♣ •To provide guidelines to identify unidentified deposits in the municipal bank

account.

### **3. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK**

Local Government Municipal Finance Act, Act 56 of 2003.

### **4. IDENTIFICATION OF UNCLAIMED MONIES**

1. 4.1 An unclaimed direct deposit is any amount of money legally paid into the municipal primary bank account without any reference or documentary proof on how the monies should be allocated and that remains unclaimed for a period of three (3) months.
2. 4.2 Unclaimed monies are any amounts of money legally payable to a creditor and that have not been claimed or banked within a period of three (3) months.

4.3 An unclaimed deposit is any amount of money legally paid by a customer as security for municipal services for the use of facilities which have not been claimed within a period of three (3) months.

### **5. REGISTER OF UNCLAIMED MONEY**

1. 5.1 After all processes to identify the unallocated monies have been exhausted and the period as mentioned in paragraph 4 has expired all unclaimed and/or unallocated monies will be receipted in a register kept by the municipality.
2. 5.2 The register will be maintained and updated regularly and be kept for a period of five (5) years.
3. 5.3 After the unclaimed and/or unallocated monies have been deposited in the register the rightful owner thereof can claim the monies within a period of five (5) years from date the monies were deposited or become unclaimed subject to documentary proof being provided by the claimant of the monies.

4. 5.4 The value of unclaimed monies and/or unallocated direct deposits will be recognized as a liability in the financial statements of the municipality.

#### **6. UNCLAIMED MONEY TO BE PAID AS PUBLIC REVENUE**

1. 6.1 Should unclaimed monies not be claimed within the period of five (5) years the monies will be written off from the register and be receipted as revenue in that financial year.
2. 6.2 The following process must be followed before any monies are receipted as revenue:
  1. (i) the register will be advertised in the media in terms of section 21A of the Systems Act, Act 32 of 2000 that it will lie open for public inspection;
  2. (ii) such register must lie open for inspection for a further period of four (4) months;
  3. (iii) the register will be made available for inspection at the main municipal buildings;
  4. (iv) the prescribed form must be completed with documentary proof should any monies be claimed by a customer or creditor; and
  5. (v) after the four (4) months period a report will be submitted to council on the unclaimed monies to be written off from the register and be transferred to general revenue.

#### **7. REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure that it complies with changes in

applicable legislation and the operating requirements of the municipality.

#### **8. SHORT TITLE**

This policy shall be called the Unclaimed Deposits Policy of the Dipaleseng Local Municipality.

### **PART 2: Local Government Municipal Systems Act No 32 of 2000**

#### **SECTION 95: CUSTOMER CARE AND MANAGEMENT**

In relation to the levying of rates and other taxes by a municipality and the charging of fees for municipal services, a municipality must, within its financial and administrative capacity—

- a) establish a sound customer management system that aims to create a positive and reciprocal relationship between persons liable for these payments and the municipality, and where applicable, a service provider
- b) establish mechanisms for users of services and ratepayers to give feedback to the municipality or other service provider regarding the quality of the services and the performance of the service provider;
- c) take reasonable steps to ensure that users of services are informed of the costs involved in service provision. the reasons for the payment of service fees, and the manner in which monies raised from the service are utilised:

- d) where the consumption of services has to be measured, take reasonable steps to ensure that the consumption by individual users of services is measured through accurate and verifiable metering systems;
- e) ensure that persons liable for payments, receive regular and accurate accounts that indicate the basis for calculating the amounts due;
- f) provide accessible mechanisms for those persons to query or verify accounts and metered consumption, and appeal procedures which allow such persons to receive prompt redress for inaccurate accounts;
- g) provide accessible mechanisms for dealing with complaints from such persons, together with prompt replies and corrective action by the municipality;
- h) provide mechanisms to monitor the response time and efficiency in complying with paragraph (g); and
- i) provide accessible pay points and other mechanisms for settling accounts or for making pre-payments for services.

## **SECTION 96: DEBT COLLECTION RESPONSIBILITY OF MUNICIPALITIES**

A municipality—

- a) must collect all money that is due and payable to it, subject to this Act and any other applicable legislation; and
- b) for this purpose, must adopt, maintain and implement a credit control and debt collection policy which is consistent with its rates and tariff policies and complies with the provisions of this Act.

## **SECTION 97: CONTENTS OF POLICY**

- (1)** A credit control and debt collection policy must provide for
  - a) credit control procedures and mechanisms;
  - b) debt collection procedures and mechanisms;
  - c) provision for indigent debtors that is consistent with its rates : tariff policies and any national policy on indigents;
  - d) realistic targets consistent with
    - i. general recognised accounting: practices and collection ratios: and
    - ii. the estimates of income set in the budget less an acceptable provision for bad debts:
  - e) interest on arrears, where appropriate;
  - f) extensions of time for payment of accounts;
  - g) termination of services or the restriction of the provision of services when payments are in arrears;
  - h) matters relating to unauthorised consumption of services, theft and damages; and
  - i) any other matters that may be prescribed by regulation in terms of section 104.
- (2)** A credit control and debt collection policy may-differentiate between different categories of ratepayers, users of services, debtors, taxes, services.

## 1 EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy comes in effect on date of approval.

Implementation Date	Council Resolution no.	Adopted Date
1 July 2025	140/05/25	28/05/2025