



MANTSOPA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
FS 196
INDIGENT POLICY

MANTSOPA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY (FS 196)
INDIGENT POLICY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART 1	Objective
PART 2	Criteria and process for identifying indigents
PART 3	Application of the policy
PART 4	Non-compliance of households registered as indigents
PART 5	Reporting requirements

MANTSOPA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY (FS 196)
INDIGENT POLICY

PART 1 OBJECTIVE

Due to high levels of unemployment and subsequent poverty within the Mantsopa Local Municipality, there are households which are unable to pay for normal municipal services. The municipality therefore adopts this indigency management policy to ensure that these households have access to at least basic municipal services, and is guided in the formulation of this policy by the national government's policy in this regard.

Section 152 (b) of the 1996 Constitution of South Africa reads: "*Local government to ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner*". This policy however will ensure that the above section of the act is enforced by

PART 2: CRITERIA AND PROCESSES FOR IDENTIFYING INDIGENTS

Households where verified total gross monthly income of all occupants over 18 years of age does not exceed R1 800, or such other amount as the council may from time to time determine, qualify for a full subsidy on service charges for sewerage and refuse removal, and will additionally receive 6 kl of water per month and 50 kWh of electricity per month free of charge.

Only households where the account holder has registered as indigent in terms of the municipality's annual registration programme, and whose registration has been accepted and entered into the register of indigents shall qualify for the above concessions.

For a household to qualify for subsidies or rebates on the major service charges (see part 3 below), the registered indigent must be the full-time occupant of the

MANTSOPA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY (FS 196)
INDIGENT POLICY

property concerned, and may not own any other property, whether in or out of the municipal area.

Indigency relief shall apply for a period not extending beyond the financial year in which the particular household is registered as indigent. Registration must be renewed in each registration programme if relief is to continue.

To register as an indigent, the relevant accountholder must personally complete and sign the registration form provided by the municipality for this purpose, and furnish such further documentation as the municipality specifies. The municipal manager will provide assistance to persons who cannot read or write, at such times and places as are specified in the notices published to indicate that the registration programme is to take place. Registration will take place on dates and at times and places determined by the council.

PART 3: APPLICATION OF THE POLICY

The subsidies on rates and the specified service charges will be determined as part of each annual budget and in terms of the municipality's policies on property rates and tariffs.

In respect of water, a 100% subsidy for basic charge which includes 6 kl per household per month will apply; however, if consumption exceeds 6 kl per metering period (month) the consumer will be charged at normal tariffs for actual consumption on the quantity exceeding 6 kl.

In respect of electricity, a 100% subsidy up to 50 kWh per household per month will apply; however, if consumption exceeds 50 kWh per metering period (month), the consumer will be charged at normal tariffs for actual consumption on the quantity exceeding 50 kWh.

MANTSOPA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY (FS 196)
INDIGENT POLICY

In respect of sewerage charges and charges for household refuse removal, the relief granted shall be 100% on the monthly amount billed for the service concerned.

PART 4: NON-COMPLIANCE OF HOUSEHOLDS REGISTERED AS INDIGENT

When an accountholder who has registered as an indigent fails to comply with any arrangements or conditions materially relevant to the receipt of indigency relief, such person will forfeit his or her status as a registered indigent with immediate effect, and will thereafter be treated as an ordinary accountholder for the financial year concerned.

The onus is on each registered indigent to advise the municipal manager of such failure to comply.

It may happen that even with the introduction of the indigent policy, certain households may fall into arrears in respect of the amounts due by them. The accountholder concerned will have to make immediate arrangements with the municipal manager to pay off these arrears owing within a reasonable time determined by the municipal manager in terms of the municipality's credit control and debt collection policy.

The relief to indigents may be withdrawn at the discretion of the municipal manager if:

- a registered indigent who qualifies for such relief fails to keep to the terms of the policy agreement; or
- Any tampering with the installations of the municipality is detected.

MANTSOPA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY (FS 196)
INDIGENT POLICY

If a registered indigent is found to have provided fraudulent information to the municipality in regard to any material condition for registration as an indigent, such person shall immediately be removed from the register of indigents, and shall be liable to repay to the municipality with immediate effect all indigency relief received from the date of such fraudulent registration. Moreover, such person may not again be considered for indigency relief for a period extending for 5 (five) years beyond the financial year in which the misdemeanour is detected.

Indigency relief will not apply in respect of property owners owning more than one property, whether in or outside the municipal area.

PART 5: REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The municipal manager shall report on a monthly basis to the executive mayor or executive committee, as the case may be, for the month concerned and by municipal ward:

- the number of households registered as indigents and a brief explanation of any movements in such numbers;
- the monetary value of the actual subsidies and rebates granted;
- the budgeted value of the subsidies and rebates concerned; and
- the above information cumulatively for the financial year to date.

The executive mayor or executive committee, as the case may be, shall submit the above reports on a quarterly basis to the council and to the municipality's ward committees, or monthly frequently to any ward committees if so requested.