

Statement by the Executive Mayor of Cape Town, Alderman Patricia de Lille

The ANC betrays the poor

As part of the City of Cape Town's ongoing efforts to building a Caring and Inclusive City, council today, adopted a recommendation to write off the interest on the arrears for properties with a municipal property valuation of R300 000 or less by 31 December 2013.

This will bring the total amount of charges to be written off for qualifying poor residents to R472 million.

Council also agreed that all future interest charges for these properties will be stopped until all the water leaks have been repaired, the relevant water management devices are installed and the total arrears are written off.

The ANC inexplicably abstained from voting on this recommendation to bring relief to poor residents.

The ANC can no longer claim to have the best interests of the poor at heart when it refuses to support an initiative that is aimed squarely at reducing the financial burden on vulnerable residents.

Many of the households that will benefit from having their arrears written off have limited income to provide for their families and can ill afford interest charges on their municipal bills.

Despite the ANC's actions, residents can be rest assured that the City of Cape Town will continue to do everything it can to find ways of assisting vulnerable residents.