

MONTHLY REPORT PORTFOLIO: Human settlement and Land Development

MONTH: September 2026

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO: Francois Hattingh

Re: Unfinished houses and illegal structures in ward 14.

According to building inspector notices were issued. Who is following up on this?

Froneman opposite nr 8C Fochville – Roof was put up wall was built (September 2025 - our question “New house building plans”)

Olienhout 64 Fochville – house's roof has been put up, no other progress is still inhabited (September 2025 - our question “Incomplete Occupied house, building extensions building plans, service connection”)

Peperkorrel Fochville there is a new house being built no sign on it, foundation has been pored, bricks, delivered. – New building not on the list

Wattel 25 (27) Fochville Nothing new happened house still stands half built. (September 2025 - “New house building plans”)

Kareeboom Fochville 17 - Bricks Foundation grass grown in fondation

1 Saycamore Fochville – nothing new happend, finished building (September 2025 – Guest house, building plans)

110 Olienhout Fochville Vlei House – Nothing Happened Yet (September 2025 - Service connection occupation certificate)

93 Olienhout Fochville people lives in the house finished built but not yet painted. (September 2025 – “building extension building plans”)

Second report (September 2025)

11 Kiaat, Fochville – Construction has been completed.

19 Disa, Fochville – Construction has been completed, and the property is currently occupied.

17 Tambotie/Bloekom, Fochville – Construction is still in progress, and the property is currently occupied.

11 Elm Weg, Fochville – Construction remains incomplete, and no further progress has been observed at the property.

5 Anemoon, Fochville – The structure in question appears to be more than a carport; it also includes a granny flat that has been constructed.

65 Keurboom, Fochville – Construction has been completed, and the property is currently occupied.

9 Keurboom, Fochville – Construction of a boundary wall is currently underway.

18, 20, and 24 Denneweg, Fochville – All buildings appear to be completed, and the properties are currently occupied.

2 Stinkhout, Fochville – Construction is still in progress at the property, and some alterations/extensions have reportedly been made

New Buildings in Ward 14

9 Tambotie, Fochville – Bricks have been delivered to the site.

65 Jackaranda, Fochville – Bricks have been delivered to the site.

Questions

1. What is the permitted timeframe for the completion of a residential property?
2. Is occupation of a residential property permitted while construction is still in progress?
3. What measures are in place to prevent occupancy of incomplete houses?
4. Do building inspectors conduct regular site visits?

Francois Hattingh

WARD 14

REPORT 2026/09/01

PORTFOLIO: WATER AND ELECTRICITY

ELECTRICITY

Ongoing electrical outages due to the municipality's outstanding debt to Eskom and the resulting limitations placed on electricity supply.

Water

Water leak 7 Anemoon Fochville reported 13 August REF nr: OAAK6W0W26

checked today 11/9/26 Nothing fixed.

Engela van der Merwe

Engela van der Merwe

Wyk 14: Monthly Report:

Portfolio: Road, Storm water and public works.

Member: Mr Simon Matlala

Month of: September 2026

The purpose of this report is to make sure that the people get their services delivered to them by the municipality.

I would like to thank the municipality for filling the potholes to some of our street been reported I will appreciate if they can help me with also the following street which are in bad condition:

- Aster street whole street very bad potholes need attention.
- Disalaan and Anemoon right in the corner very bad potholes need attention.
- Anemoon and Stinkhout street right in the corner very bad potholes need attention.
- Anemoon and Jacaranda and the whole street of Jacaranda need attention.
- Ebbehout laan very bad potholes need attention. Thank you for attending to this but out of the 4 potholes only 3 were done what about the last one?
- Olienhout street no 104 ,57,96 and 49 very bad potholes need urgent attention please 🙏 Thank you for the potholes they fixed in Olienhout.
- Olienhout and Froneman street on the corner need attention very bad potholes.
- Thank you for filling the potholes at the beginning of Keurboom Fochville but in front of 36 Keurboom Fochville there is still a big pothole that needs to be fixed.

Please 🙏 we need assistance with these potholes on our it's a serious problem that needs to be addressed.

Thank you

Mr Simon MATLALA

01-Sep-26

PORTFOLIO :

PUBLIC SAFETY, WARD 14, FOCHVILLE.

MONTH :

Aug-26

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO :

JC VAN DER MERWE

1.) ELECTRICAL CABLE FAULTS / THEFT OUTAGES :

SEVERAL OUTAGE DUE TO OVERLOADING WHEREBY LOAD ROTATION BEEN APPLIED DUE TO \ EXTREME COLD FRONT.

2.) BURGLARIES / STOLEN ITEMS :

1 HOUSE BURGLARY CASE IN OUR WARD REPORTED.

ARREST MADE BY SAPS IN VEREENIGING REGARDING STOLEN VEHICLE IN FRONT] OF MY YARD .
CAMERA FOOTAGE HELPED A LOT, VEHICLE BEEN SPOTED ON BELREX.

3.) C.P.F.

SEVERAL OPERATIONS TOGETHER WITH SAPS CONDUCTED IN AND OUT OF WARD.

4.) ACCIDENTS :

MANY AGAIN THIS MONTH IN OUR PRECINCT THIS YEAR ON THE N12, KOKOSI ROAD AND R500.

5.) CAMERA SYSTEMS :

CAMERAS BEEN UP AND DOWN, BETWEEN DIFFERENT SPOTS.

6.) SPEED HUMBS :

UNCHANGED FROM PREVIOUS REPORT

7.) POTHoles :

NONE BEEN REPORTED OR SEEN THAT'S WAS FIXED.

8.) PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT :

STILL SAME AS PREVIOUS REPORT.

9.) MISSING PERSONS REPORT :

NO MISSING REPORTS.

10.) INCOMPLETED HOUSES :

SAME AS PREVIOUS REPORT.

11.) FIELD FIRES :

SEVARAL IN OUR WARD. BEEN ATTENDED TO BY FIRE DEPARTMENT.

CIVIC CENTRE WHERE FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONDED.

12.) WATER CRISIS :

a.) NO THING TO REPORT

13.) OTHER MATTERS :

a.) ILLIGAL DUMPING ONGOING. NO RESPONSE FROM PUBLIC SAFTETY WHEN BEEN REPORTED.

b.) HOMELESS PEOPLE SLEEPING IN PARKS AND OPEN FIELDS.

c.) MOTORBIKES STILL A BIG PROBLEM, ESSPECIALY AT THE SAVF RESORT DURING WEEKENDS.

I SPOKE TO RELEVANT OWNERS AND DEPARTMENT, BUT NO ONE WILLING TO REALY TO HELP.


JC VD MERWE

0828008668

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (LED) REPORT

Ward 14 – Merafong City Local Municipality

Meeting Date: 1 September 2026

Reporting Period: August 2026

Final LED Portfolio Report

Submitted by:

Jaco van der Merwe

1. Executive Summary

This report represents my final Local Economic Development (LED) portfolio report for Ward 14.

The position at the end of August 2026 remains broadly consistent with that reported throughout the preceding year. Ward 14 and the greater Fochville area retain economic potential, but meaningful Local Economic Development continues to be constrained primarily by unreliable municipal services, ageing infrastructure, municipal financial distress and the resulting loss of confidence in Merafong City Local Municipality.

The most significant positive regional development remains continued investment in the mining sector. Harmony Gold's investment in the Mponeng life-of-mine extension provides a substantially improved long-term outlook for mining activity in the greater Merafong economy.

The contrast is therefore increasingly clear: **private and mining-sector investment offers economic opportunity, while municipal infrastructure and governance remain significant constraints on the ability of communities such as Fochville to capitalise on that opportunity.**

2. Water Services and Economic Impact

Water security remains a material economic risk.

The severe water disruptions experienced during 2025 and early 2026 demonstrated the vulnerability created by Merafong's financial position and its substantial outstanding debt to Rand Water.

While conditions have improved from the prolonged outages previously experienced, the underlying financial and infrastructure risks have not disappeared. Water interruptions, ageing reticulation infrastructure and uncertainty regarding long-term bulk-water security continue to influence business and investor confidence.

Businesses and households have increasingly been forced to provide their own resilience through water tanks, pumps and other contingency measures. These costs effectively

transfer the consequences of unreliable municipal services to residents and the private sector.

Reliable water provision must be regarded not only as a basic service but as essential economic infrastructure.

3. Electricity and Infrastructure

Electricity remains one of the most serious constraints affecting economic activity within Ward 14.

The challenges repeatedly raised during the reporting period include:

- Ageing electricity infrastructure;
- Capacity limitations;
- Maintenance backlogs;
- Equipment and transformer failures;
- Theft and vandalism;
- Streetlight failures; and
- The financial pressure associated with municipal bulk electricity obligations.

These conditions increase the cost and risk of conducting business and discourage additional investment.

Businesses cannot reasonably be expected to expand operations, employ additional staff or invest significant capital where reliable electricity supply cannot be assured.

4. Business Climate Assessment

The local business environment remains subdued.

Existing businesses continue to demonstrate considerable resilience, but the prevailing environment remains focused primarily on maintaining existing operations rather than significant expansion.

There remains limited evidence of major new private-sector investment within Ward 14 itself.

The recurring issues affecting business confidence remain:

- Reliability of water and electricity;
- Municipal financial sustainability;
- Infrastructure maintenance;
- Declining public infrastructure;
- Municipal responsiveness; and
- Uncertainty regarding future service capacity.

The economic fundamentals of Fochville have not disappeared. Its geographic position, established residential market, agricultural surroundings and proximity to major mining operations continue to provide a foundation for economic activity.

The constraint is increasingly not a lack of economic opportunity, but the municipal environment within which that opportunity must operate.

5. Regional Economic Driver – Mponeng and the Mining Sector

The strongest positive development during this reporting cycle remains the long-term outlook for the regional mining sector.

Harmony Gold's Mponeng life-of-mine extension represents a significant capital commitment to the West Rand mining economy. The project is intended to substantially extend the operational life of the world's deepest gold mine and provides greater certainty regarding the longevity of mining activity within the Merafong region.

This creates potential secondary opportunities through:

- Continued direct and indirect employment;
- Contractor and supplier activity;
- Local procurement;
- Transport and logistics;
- Housing and accommodation;
- Retail and service industries;
- Construction and maintenance; and
- SMME development.

For an economy historically dependent on mining, the extension of major mining operations provides valuable time for the region to diversify rather than face an abrupt economic decline associated with mine closures.

This opportunity should therefore be treated as a strategic economic window.

Merafong must use the extended lifespan of its mining economy to develop sustainable non-mining economic activity rather than simply remaining dependent upon mining until eventual closure.

6. Legislative and Governance Context

Section 152(1)(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa requires municipalities to ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner.

Section 152(1)(c) further requires municipalities to promote social and economic development.

These obligations are directly interconnected.

Local Economic Development cannot sustainably occur where basic municipal infrastructure is unreliable.

The Municipal Finance Management Act further establishes the financial governance framework necessary for sustainable municipal operations. Financial instability eventually manifests as service-delivery instability, infrastructure deterioration and reduced economic confidence.

The experience of Ward 14 during this portfolio reporting period demonstrates this relationship clearly.

7. Key Risks to Local Economic Development

The principal risks remain:

- Municipal financial instability;
- Water-security risk;
- Ageing electricity infrastructure;
- Insufficient infrastructure capacity;
- Maintenance backlogs;
- Deteriorating public infrastructure;
- Declining investor confidence;
- Limited municipal capacity for new development;
- Increasing private expenditure required to compensate for municipal failures; and
- Continued dependence on mining as the principal regional economic driver.

8. Opportunities

Despite these challenges, Ward 14 and the greater Fochville area retain significant opportunities.

These include:

- Long-term regional mining investment;
- Mining-related procurement and supplier development;
- Agriculture and agricultural support services;
- Residential and commercial development where infrastructure capacity permits;
- Small-business development;
- Renewable and alternative-energy investment;
- Private-sector infrastructure initiatives; and
- Fochville's geographic position between the Johannesburg economic region, Potchefstroom and the West Rand mining belt.

The objective should not merely be to attract new businesses but to create an environment in which existing businesses are willing to reinvest.

9. Recommendations

It remains recommended that Merafong City Local Municipality prioritise:

1. Financial stabilisation and credible management of bulk-service debt.
2. Protection and renewal of critical water and electricity infrastructure.
3. Infrastructure capacity planning aligned with future development applications.
4. Preventative maintenance rather than continued crisis-driven repairs.
5. Improved communication and accountability regarding service failures.
6. Active engagement with Harmony Gold and other major regional employers regarding local procurement and supplier-development opportunities.
7. Development of an economic diversification strategy that uses the extended lifespan of the mining sector to prepare Merafong for the eventual post-mining economy.
8. Restoration of investor confidence through measurable improvements in governance and service delivery.

10. Final Portfolio Assessment

Having reported on Local Economic Development over this period, my assessment remains fundamentally unchanged:

There is economic potential in Fochville and the greater Merafong region, but Local Economic Development cannot be separated from basic service delivery.

Businesses require electricity.

Businesses require water.

Developers require infrastructure capacity.

Investors require regulatory and governance certainty.

Residents require functioning communities in which they are prepared to invest, purchase property and establish businesses.

LED programmes alone cannot compensate for the absence of these fundamentals.

The positive outlook created by continued investment in Mponeng and the broader mining economy provides Merafong with an opportunity. It should not be mistaken for a municipal economic recovery. Rather, it provides additional time within which the municipality and broader community can establish a more diversified and sustainable economic base.

11. Conclusion

This being my final LED portfolio report for Ward 14, I wish to record that the greatest lesson from the reporting period has been the inseparable relationship between **governance, infrastructure and economic development.**

Ward 14 remains economically resilient because of its residents, businesses, agricultural sector and its relationship with the broader mining economy.

The potential exists.

The challenge remains creating the municipal environment in which that potential can develop.

Future economic growth will ultimately depend upon restoring reliable basic services, sound financial governance, infrastructure investment and confidence in local government.

Submitted: 1 September 2026



Jaco van der Merwe
Ward 14 – Local Economic Development Portfolio

MONTHLY REPORT PORTFOLIO: Intergraded Environmental Management

MONTH: September 2026

MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PORTFOLIO: Heidi Hattingh

We are still awaiting feedback from Merafong.

There is ongoing rubbish accumulation throughout Ward 14.

Sidewalk trees in Ward 14 have yet to be trimmed.

Thank you for the cutting of some open fields that was reported, really appreciated.

Still many open fields (grass) that need to be cut.

There is a stump growing on the road at 30 Kiepersol, Fochville, which requires removal. Kindly address this issue at your earliest convenience.

Rubble needs to be removed in front of 10 Kiepersol Fochville at Sunshine daycare.

Opposite 104 Olienhout Fochville field to be mowed

Next to swimming academy in Pepperkorrel Fochville field needs to be cut.

Grass has been cut next to Losberg ave Fochville thank you for that.

Opposite 14-16 Kareeboom Fochville field needs to be cut

Ouhout Fochville field should be mowed.

Signature: Date: 01 September 2026

Good day,

Attached is my application for leave of absence for the above meeting.

It is further confirmed that I have no new financial submission for the September meeting seeing that I could not obtain any new financial reports from Cllr Zwart. I have also reported to Cllr Zwart that the municipality has not complied with the Municipal Property Rates Act before levying the new rates in August 2026 by failing to notify each individual property owner of the new value of their properties as required by Section 49(1)(c) of the MPRA, rendering the valuation roll null and void. No feedback has been received.

The matter was also raised with other parties and individuals who took the matter further.

The Ward committee has also not received any feedback from my May, June and August submissions.

Regards

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Albie Nieuwoudt

Monthly Report: Health and Social Portfolio

Abraham Brits

Date: 1 September 2026

Introduction

This month's report reflects both the improvements experienced by residents and the ongoing concerns affecting the health, social well-being and general quality of life within the community.

There have been some positive developments, particularly regarding the consistency of basic services and improvements in certain areas of municipal administration. However, these improvements should not overshadow the continued frustration experienced by residents, particularly in relation to municipal billing, property rates, environmental problems and the lack of communication from the municipality.

While residents appreciate services when they function properly, there is still a strong feeling that many of the current problems require more decisive and accountable action from the municipality.

Basic Services and Municipal Administration

Municipal Accounts

The introduction of the revised monthly accounts has brought some improvement in the presentation and availability of billing information. This has made it somewhat easier for residents to understand their accounts.

However, this should not be regarded as the end of the problem. Many residents still have concerns regarding the accuracy of their accounts, previous discrepancies and the way outstanding matters are being dealt with. Residents need reliable and accurate accounts as a basic municipal service, rather than having to repeatedly query or challenge their bills.

Electricity Supply

The electricity supply has been considerably more stable recently, with fewer interruptions being reported by residents.

This improvement is welcomed by the community. However, residents remain concerned about the reliability of the system in the longer term and expect the municipality to maintain the necessary maintenance and infrastructure planning to prevent a return to the frequent problems experienced in the past.

Water Supply

The water supply has also been relatively consistent in recent weeks, with considerably fewer interruptions reported.

This is important to residents, particularly after the serious water supply problems experienced previously. The community appreciates having a reliable water supply, but there is understandable concern about whether this level of service can be maintained over the long term.

Residents are looking for **consistent service delivery rather than temporary improvements**, particularly as the municipality approaches another election period.

Environmental Health and Community Welfare

Community Cleanup

The condition of several areas has improved through increased community involvement and local efforts to keep the neighbourhoods clean.

This demonstrates what can be achieved when residents take responsibility for their surroundings and work together. However, the municipality also has an important role to play in ensuring that these improvements are maintained.

The current challenge is not simply cleaning areas once, but establishing a sustainable system that prevents the same problems from returning.

Waste Scavenging

The continued scavenging of wheelie bins remains a concern.

Residents report that bins are often searched through and waste is left scattered around the streets. Apart from creating additional litter, this contributes to an environment that is unpleasant and potentially unhealthy and also creates concerns about security and the general appearance of the neighbourhood.

This issue requires a more practical and coordinated response involving the municipality, relevant community organisations and other responsible authorities.

Critical Areas of Concern

Property Rate Increases

The most serious current concern raised by residents is the significant increase in property rates.

In some cases, residents have experienced increases of **up to approximately 50%**, which many households simply cannot absorb, particularly in the current economic climate.

These increases are creating considerable financial pressure and anxiety among residents. Property owners are entitled to expect clear explanations and proper justification for substantial increases in their municipal charges.

Lack of Feedback on Objections

A further concern is the lack of communication following the submission of objections and complaints regarding these increases.

A number of affected residents have formally raised their concerns, yet many have received little or no acknowledgment or meaningful feedback indicating whether their objections are being investigated.

This lack of communication is adding to the frustration within the community.

Residents are not necessarily expecting every objection to be upheld, but they **do expect their complaints to be acknowledged, properly considered and responded to.**

Overall Assessment

There have been some noticeable improvements in the reliability of water and electricity services and in the presentation of municipal accounts. These improvements are acknowledged and appreciated by residents.

However, it would be premature to regard the current situation as a satisfactory resolution of the municipality's service delivery problems.

The community continues to experience financial pressure, uncertainty regarding municipal charges, environmental concerns and frustration about the lack of communication when problems are reported.

The Health and Social Portfolio therefore recommends that greater attention be given not only to service delivery itself, but also to **communication, accountability and responsiveness to residents**.

Residents need to feel that their concerns are being heard and acted upon. Reliable municipal services should be regarded as a basic responsibility rather than an achievement that residents should have to continually hope will be maintained.

The community welcomes genuine improvements, but remains cautious and expects the municipality to demonstrate that these improvements are sustainable and that outstanding problems will be dealt with openly and responsibly.

Sports ground and Library

Stella de Beer

Sport:

- Some areas have electricity
- Bathrooms are still a huge concern and not user friendly
- Security is a big issue as the fence is still down at the back and anyone can gain access into the area to vandalise it
- Kids are driving around with motorcycles recklessly in the vicinity of the sports grounds and security is allowing it
- Illegal dumping around the sports grounds is taking place because of members are coming from Kokosi and dump what ever they want to there and that is an easy way for illegal activities to take place in and around the area and it is opposite SAVF, and this is also an easy access to the SAVF
- The sports grounds are being destroyed and what does security do there, things are getting stolen
- The security at the gate if they are there is, giving access to anyone without completing a formal register to keep record on who is entering and exiting the area
- Lights are burning too long at the rugby fields, and this must be tested for summertime that the timer can go off earlier in the evenings
- Where does the money go to when people is using the swimming pool?

Library:

- There are two permanent workers in the library
- There are no new books that can be used
- Bathrooms are still a huge issue as they do not look good, and this is not giving a good impression, and it is leaking and water going down the passages
- The building is an issue it's leaking when it rains and books can get rotten because of water damage
- The inside does not look good because of water damage and needs to be repainted
- A bigger space is needed as it is too small for books, shelves, students and readers
- No stationary for underprivileged kids that needs it when they come to the library

- Telephones in place
- Staff must undergo training if there is a fire in the library to make sure they use the right fire equipment
- Computers are outdated and the monitors are still the small monitors
- There are not any traces of an archive for old books, I would suggest that some of the offices not in use can be used for this purpose
- The library needs a revamp and new technology to assist learners in our town to make a difference in their daily lives and to make their work easier
- Staff must also undergo training for in a case of ambushing what to do and who to phone especially if there are learners in the library and how to protect them
- Security measures must be put in place for the staff and learners as safety comes first

Concerns:

- The civic centre must be painted outside and inside
- The security at the sports grounds is allowing a lot of people entering and does not care about that. Buildings get vandalised and the security does not report anything, copper pipes etc been stolen.
- People using the civic centre and they do not clean the areas clean up measurements must be implemented when people make use of the civic centre.
- Community is complaining that the library is offline and cannot take books out
- It is unfair that the community must pay for entering the stadium as the guard sometimes let members just go through and some must pay?