



**MEDIA RELEASE:**

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**For immediate release**

**Bitou Local Municipality approved the waiving and relaxation of building plan fees and other charges for victims of recent fire disaster**

The Strategic Services Department of Bitou Municipality tabled an Item for consideration to the Municipal Council for the “Waving and relaxation of building plan fees and other charges” for the rebuild of properties affected by the recent fire disaster.

On Thursday, 31 August 2017 the Bitou Council resolved under Resolution C/6/30/08/17 that the following be approved for property owner/s within the Bitou Municipal jurisdiction affected by the fire disaster.

1. For the 2017- 2018 financial year:

**a) Category A:**

- (i) Reinstate/ rebuilt the Building as per the original building plan approved post-November 2011.
  - **No fees**, just written application for municipal endorsement “reactivation” of the plan.”
- (ii) Reinstatement/ rebuilt of Building as per original building plan before November 2011.
  - **Minimum fees**, a written application for Exemption and or Deviation from Section 18 of the National Building Regulations and Standards Act, as amended.

**b) Category B:**

- (i) Rebuilt of Building on the same footprint but internal layout and design changed.
    - **Minimum Fee** as per Council current approved Tariff Policy: R592-80,
  - c) **Category C:**  
Combination of A and B:
    - (i) Reinstate parts of the original approval and adding additions anew.
      - Minimum fee **plus** payment of additional area as per Council Approved Tariff Policy.
  - d) **Category D**  
Demolition permit applications: **Waive demolition permit fees**, for fire related damaged buildings.
2. That the Municipal Council approves the delegation as per Section 18 to the Manager Building Control to consider fire related building applications for Deviations and or exemptions from compliance with the National Building Regulations and Building Standards Act (103 of 1977), as Amended.
  3. That properties services such as water connection, electrical connection and sewer connections fees be waived on submission of proof of damaged services.
  4. That all fire related building plan approvals granted as per Categorization above, be valid for 24 months from the date of approval.
  5. That a report is submitted regarding the possible waiving of property rates for the fire victims for 12 months taking into consideration the financial implications thereof.

Ends

**Issued By:** Mr Howard Swartz **on behalf of**  
Mr TC Ndlovu  
**Municipal Manager of Bitou Local Municipality**