

## Cape Business News

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### Financial and Fiscal Commission: Guaranteed Revenue Enhancement for Municipalities

When it comes to municipal revenue enhancement, there have been very useful recommendations from the Financial and Fiscal Commission pertaining to sustainable government. The commission recommends that municipalities should explore new and innovative methods to generate revenue and collect outstanding debt, and take advantage of new technologies (for example the Smart System) to improve revenue management, enhancement and collection. A physical technological enhancement for example is the use of smart and prepaid metering for electricity. But according to Sean Philip of Smart Metro (municipal revenue enhancement) the effectiveness of smart metering for a municipality is greatly dependent on the state of the municipality's data.

Financial sustainability and revenue enhancement for municipalities has become a priority. According to recent reports "In 2011 the Financial and Fiscal Commission embarked on a review of the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF). As part of the process, the Commission held two sets of public hearings. The first hearings titled "Sustainable Financing of Local Government: Understanding the Symptoms and Drivers of Performance Problems in Local Government" received stakeholders inputs on the actual and perceived challenges that the local government sphere was faced with in the context of the existing fiscal framework, and to identify and fill any identified knowledge gaps. The second public hearings titled "Sustainable Financing of Local Government: Exploring the Options" received stakeholder views on proposed solutions to local government financing challenges."

The Commission hosted media briefings on the matter and IMFO was well prepared to respond positively to the media on the aspects raised. The media release was available on the FFC website - [www.ffc.co.za](http://www.ffc.co.za) - earlier on this year. The CEO and Presidency of IMFO appealed to their members to come up with objective opinions. There was a lot of media comment on the Local Government perspective on this matter and the SA Cities Network presentation on Municipal services costs for developing and holding land. The Regulations for SCOA (Standard Chart of Accounts) were released at the end of April or early May. IMFO members in their individual capacities as municipalities were requested to comment through the formal IMFO communication channels. The President Louise Muller took a personal interest in the matter.

Municipalities can now enjoy the benefits of guaranteed revenue enhancement and the latest technologies by using the Smart System from Smart Metro. Smart Metro are the national leaders in guaranteed results revenue enhancement for municipalities and use their more than 20 years experience with billing analytics, GIS systems, utility consumption norms and immovable asset management. Contact Smart Metro now to find out how you can get guaranteed Municipal Revenue Enhancement results that will also help you attain an unqualified audit result.

[http://www.cbn.co.za/pressoffice/smart\\_metro/fullstory/4148.htm](http://www.cbn.co.za/pressoffice/smart_metro/fullstory/4148.htm)