



30th April 2013... deadline to apply for Rates exemption/rebate

Annually Organisations Not for Gain and certain schools may apply to Municipality's for a reduction of rates on property owned by these entities in which it undertakes its activities.

In Durban, the eThekweni Municipality grants exemption from Municipal Rates for the following types of properties:

1. Full exemption from rates - Place of Worship

A property registered in the name of a religious institution which is used primarily as a place of public worship (e.g. mosque, church or temple), whether the property is owned by a PBO or a non-PBO, is exempt from the payment of rates. Annually the organisation needs to submit an affidavit confirming the use of the property.

2. Full exemption or partial rebate from rates

The Municipal Manager or his nominee will give either a full exemption or a partial rebate on the following types of properties:

a) Public Benefit Organisation (PBO)

The property must be owned by a PBO and used for the following public benefit activities:

- Welfare and Humanitarian (e.g. orphanages, old age homes) ;
- Health Care (e.g. clinics, hospitals and rehabilitation centres); or
- Animal Welfare (e.g. property used for the protection of birds, reptiles and animals); or
- Cemeteries or crematoriums.

b) School Not For Gain (SNFG)

A SNFG is an Independent or Private School which enrolls learners in any grade from 0 to 12 and is not subsidised either wholly or in part by the State. Presently, SNFG's may obtain relief of up to 50% of their rates bill.

A SNFG which is housed on property registered in the name of a place of public worship will also be valued and rated in accordance with the above criteria.

c) Sporting Bodies

Sporting Bodies will be rated on the value of the building area only and the building area may exclude change rooms and store rooms necessary for the sport.

d) Religious classes and studies

PBOs whose main activity is to undertake religious classes (i.e. not in terms of the School grading system) may also apply for a rates rebate as a religious body.

Rebates (as above) will only be granted to Organisations, SNFGs' or Sporting Bodies that are registered as a PBO or those that have applied for a PBO status.

Applications must be submitted annually to the Rates Department at the eThekweni Municipality (for Durban and surrounds) and can be downloaded from: www.durban.gov.za.

Contact your local municipality to determine the rebates offered in your area!