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Blaming city for R50k water bill

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A CAPE Town resident has been slapped with a water bill of R50 000 which she is refusing to pay after claiming this was due to a faulty water management device (WMD).

Groups including the Cape Town Water Crisis Coalition and Environmental Monitoring Group have criticised the roll-out of these devices as part of the city's drought interventions plan.

A resident, Winifred Archillies said their problems started last year when they paid for an Aqualoc WMD to be installed at the city's request. The device is supposed to curb water usage by cutting off the water supply when a household reaches a certain limit.

"When this problem started last year we tried to get a refund from the city and it was declined," she said.

The city's mayoral committee mem-



FAULTY: A water meter has been blamed for excessive usage. PICTURE: GETTY IMAGES

ber for informal settlements, water and waste services and energy, Limberg Xanthea said: "If there is ever a problem with the device, we take it up with the supplier. We are not liable for those

faulty devices." Cosatu spokesperson Tony Ehrenreich said: "This high billing shows how inept and incompetent the province is in managing water."

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