

Written submission to the City of Ekurhuleni 2021/2022 Draft Budget

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Submitted by: Planact as part of the Asivikelane Campaign representing informal settlements communities in Ekurhuleni.

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Based on an analysis of the City of Ekurhuleni 2021/22 draft budget, on behalf of informal settlements in Ekurhuleni Planact submits the following key recommendations:

1. **The City must allocate dedicated funds for new taps and toilets and budget for maintenance and repair.**
 - The City must have a **dedicated budget** allocation for the provision of permanent taps (standpipes) and flush toilets to informal settlements. (See page 2)
 - The City must have a **dedicated budget for maintaining, repairing, and servicing infrastructure** in informal settlements. This includes the fixing of taps, cleaning and desludging chemical and VIP toilets and the fixing of the toilets. (See page 3)

2. **The City must increase allocations for the provision and servicing of chemical toilets and clearly indicate this in the budget.**
 - The City should show in its budget the total amount allocated for the provision and servicing of chemical toilets and **increase** this allocation to enable the metro to desludge and clean these toilets twice instead of once a week. (See page 3) The City should explain why it is decreasing the 'own revenue' contribution to the provision of chemical toilets from R422 million to R400 million, and what this means for the provision, maintenance, and servicing of chemical toilets. (See page 3-4)

3. **The City must allocate more funds to electricity in informal settlements (not less)**
 - The City's budget indicates a reduction in spending on electricity in informal settlements which is very concerning. We urge the City to **refrain from reducing** the budget for the electrification of informal settlements from R220 million in 2020/21 to R120 million in 2021/22. (See pages 4-5)
 - Electricity remains a significant need and **more funding** should be allocated to this.

4. **The City must improve the refuse removal service in informal settlements.**
 - The City must **increase the budget** allocation for refuse removal to informal settlements to ensure a safe and hygienic environment for residents.
 - The budget and IDP needs to provide clear information on what will be provided and where. (See page 5-6)

Asivikelane Campaign – voice of informal settlements about basic services

Planact have been working with informal settlements for over 30 years . Recently, with the International Budget Partnership South Africa and other partner organisations they formed the Asivikelane campaign. This is an initiative that supports communities in monitoring water, sanitation and refuse collection in informal settlements. The objective of the campaign is for informal settlement communities to have a voice during and after the COVID-19 Pandemic.

On a monthly basis, community members answer questions about the above basic services and Planact sends the reports and summaries to relevant key officials at the City.

Communities have made several comments on the IDP through the Asvikelane reports and the recent IDP public meetings. This submission is based on community inputs and reflects the needs of informal settlement residents in the City. The submission is also informed by a detailed analysis of the City’s draft 2021/22 budget and offers recommendations for practical steps that the City can take to ensure that the budget responds to the needs of its most vulnerable residents.

The City must have a dedicated budget allocation for the provision of permanent taps (standpipes) and flushing toilets.

It is unclear from the draft budget whether Ekurhuleni Metro has set aside dedicated allocations for the provision of permanent taps (standpipes) and flush toilets to informal settlements. The 2021/22 The Draft Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDIBP) states that the Water and Sanitation department has allocated R10 million to provide 100 additional water access points to informal settlements, this is exactly the same target and budget as in last year’s SDBIP.^{1 2} The metro defines “metro access points” as water standpipes and water tankers which are accessed within a 200m radius. The SDBIP however does not state how many of the 100 additional points for 2021/22 will be standpipes and how many will be water tankers.

The draft 2021/22 budget document does not show any projects or budget allocations for the provision of either standpipes or water tankers. The only project in the Department of Water and Sanitation’s capital budget funded by the ISUPG (the grant specifically for informal settlement upgrading) is the W&S: Emergency SVC to informal settlement (Corporate)” programme. R2 million has been allocated in 2021/22, with the allocation set to increase to R10 million in both 2022/23 and 2023/24. But the budget does not provide any more information on what exactly this project delivers.

It is also cause for concern that no capital budget allocation could be found for the provision of flush toilets to informal settlements (the minimum basic standard), as chemical toilets are interim services according to the IDP.

We urge the City to allocate dedicated funds for taps and toilets to informal settlements and clearly indicate this allocation and the services that it will provide, in the final 2021/22 budget.

Further, we ask that the City actively budget for the provision of services that are at least in line with the City’s own service standards as articulated in its documents:

¹ <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/about-the-city/budget/annual-budget-report/draft-budget-2021-2022/4985-a-f-19-2021-annexure-e1-1/file.html> Page 38.

² <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/budget-2015-2016/4389-a-f-28-2020-annexure-e-2020-21-departmental-sdbip/file.html> Page 73.

- **For sanitation**, the 2021/22 Integrated Development Plan (IDP) states that the minimum standard for basic sanitation is either a flush toilet (sewerage system) or a flush toilet (septic tank) or a pit toilet connected to ventilation (VIP).³
- **For water**, the IDP indicates that the minimum standard for basic water is that the household's main source of drinking water is a tap inside the dwelling/house, a tap inside the yard, or a communal stand less than 200m from the dwelling.

Interim services play a role in the short-term but permanent water and sanitation infrastructure needs to be budgeted for so that residents can be assured of healthy and safe living conditions into the future.

The City must have a dedicated budget for maintenance, repairs, and servicing infrastructure in informal settlements. This includes the fixing of taps, more frequent cleaning and desludging chemical and VIP toilets and the fixing of the toilets.

In the capital and operating budget there is no dedicated budget or project for repairs and fixing taps and toilets. According to the 2021/22 SDBIP, the water and sanitation department aims to spend 95% of its repairs and maintenance budget of R85 million in the 2021/22 financial year".⁴ However, no mention is made of how much (if any) of this budget has been set aside for maintenance of basic water and sanitation infrastructure in informal settlements. The budget allocation for maintenance and repairs to informal settlement services should be clearly indicated in the budget, and the amount allocated should be sufficient to meet the needs of residents.

In a few Asivikelane reports, community members share that they have had instances where they were unable to use water and sanitation facilities for several weeks or months because of broken taps and toilets. In Asivikelane release 14, community members stated that "toilets are never fixed in time, it takes too long". "We sometimes call a meeting to collect a few Rands per family to fix a tap".⁵ Informal settlement communities are facing a desperate situation – the lack of maintenance and repair puts their health, safety and hygiene at every single day. A dedicated budget for fixing taps and toilets is necessary to protect them from these risks.

The City should increase the allocations for cleaning and desludging to enable the metro to desludge and clean these toilets twice instead of once a week.

Similarly, cleaning and desludging needs to be increased. While the current contract for delivering and servicing of chemical toilets requires the service providers to clean and desludge the toilets once a week, during the earlier stages of the national lockdown the metro started to clean these toilets twice a week as part of its efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19. The metro has reverted to cleaning these toilets once a week. This is a big problem in communities as the ratio of 1 toilet to 5 families is not always achieved and thus the sanitation facilities become too full before the end of a week. In the April 2021 Asivikelane report between 75% and 90% of residents stated that their toilets were cleaned and/or desludged in the last seven days⁶. However, many indicated that once a week was not enough and they are asking for both cleaning and desludging to happen twice a week. Communities believe that improving the service standards will require a budget that is more representative of their needs and thus we are requesting additional funding for this.

³ <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/about-the-city/budget/annual-budget-report/draft-budget-2021-2022/4990-a-f-19-2021-annexure-a-1/file.html> Page 320.

⁴ <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/about-the-city/budget/annual-budget-report/draft-budget-2021-2022/4985-a-f-19-2021-annexure-e1-1/file.html> Page 38.

⁵ <https://asivikelane.org/releases/>

⁶ https://asivikelane.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/asivikelane-release-16_final.pdf

The City should explain why they are decreasing their own revenue contribution to the provision of chemical toilets from R422 million to R400 million, and what this means for the provision, maintenance, and servicing of chemical toilets.

The draft 2021/22 budget document shows in a table on the delivery of free basic services, that R400 million from its internally generated revenue has been set aside for “chemical toilets”. This is less than the R422 million in the 2020/21 adjusted budget, and even less than the year-to-date estimates of R450 million for 2019/20.⁷ It is not clear if these are the total budgets for the provision and servicing of chemical toilets. However, we anticipate that this huge decrease will have an impact on the interim sanitation service standards which are already inhumane.

The City should refrain from reducing the budget for the electrification of informal settlements from R220 million in 2020/21 to R120 million in 2021/22.

According to the IDP, the metro aimed to electrify all informal settlements between 2016 and 2021. And the electrification programme would be accelerated in support of formalisation of informal settlements and the human settlements mega projects. The IDP also refers to the provision of streetlights and high mast lights, as well as pre-paid electricity meters, but without specifically linking these to informal settlements.⁸

In the interim, informal settlements waiting to benefit from the electrification project receive energy in the form of portable solar lighting units, which can provide enough power for four globes and a cell phone charger.⁹ Communities are stating that this is not adequate electrification as they have to use electricity to cook meals for their families.

The citywide “Electrification of Informal Settlements (Reblocking areas) (corporate)” project is set to receive R120 million in 2021/22, which is significantly less than the R220 million allocated to this project in 2020/21. The projected budget for 2022/23 is again R120 million, before it is set to increase to R140 million in 2023/24. This is of great concern as there are hundreds of informal settlements that do not have electricity, yet the budget has reduced significantly. Furthermore, the IDP needs to be much more specific with information. The below table, from the IDP, does not show which wards will benefit from this project and it does not indicate how many from each ward would benefit. The communities cannot tell from the budget documents how the metro decides on the communities that will benefit from this project.

Department	Wards	Project name	2021/22 Draft budget	2022/23 Draft budget	2023/24 Draft budget
Energy	City Wide	Electrification of Informal Settlements (Reblocking Areas)(Corporate)	120 000 000	120 000 000	140 000 000

Source: IDP page 244

Informal settlement communities welcome streetlighting and high mast lighting but the community of Etwatwa ward 65 community have 5 high mast lights that were installed in 2019 but have never

⁷<https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/about-the-city/budget/annual-budget-report/draft-budget-2021-2022/4991-a-f-19-2021-annexure-b-1/file.html> Page 46.

⁸ <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/about-the-city/budget/annual-budget-report/draft-budget-2021-2022/4990-a-f-19-2021-annexure-a-1/file.html> Page 305.

⁹ <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/about-the-city/budget/annual-budget-report/draft-budget-2021-2022/4990-a-f-19-2021-annexure-a-1/file.html> Page 64.

worked from the day of installation. The community is requesting that this issue be fixed and ask for a more detailed budget for the installation of high mast lights and electricity – gaps identified in the budget and IDP include the following:

- There is a project called Etwatwa Lighting (Etwatwa) which suggests that there will be a provision of some sort of lighting in Etwatwa but one cannot tell what exactly will be provided.
- The draft budget does not indicate if this budget is for the installation of more high mast lights in the communities.
- It also does not indicate if the budget allocated for the lighting project is for fixing high mast lights that are broken or not completed.

Department	Wards	Project name	2021/22 Draft budget	2022/23 Draft budget	2023/24 Draft budget
Energy	109, 25, 26, 65, 66, 67, 68, 75, 96,65	Etwatwa Lighting(Etwatwa)	300 000	400 000	500 000

The City must increase the budget allocation for refuse collection in informal settlements and engage communities on the delivery processes

The Department of Environmental Resources and Waste Removal is responsible for refuse removal. In informal settlements this entails the installation of bulk walk-in containers in all informal settlements¹⁰.

The IDP suggests that all informal settlements currently receive a refuse collection service, at least once a week. Our Asivikelane results show that this is not always the case. Generally, over the last few months, 40% or more residents said that their refuse was not collected ¹¹. In Somalia Park ward 45 a community member reports that “It’s been months now and I have never seen the truck pass by my street to collect waste.”¹²

The SDBIP also states that the municipality provides integrated waste handling services to all known informal settlements (119) in the metro where the total budget allocation for this service during the 2021/22 financial year is R76,45 Million. This is unchanged from the 2020/21 financial year baseline.¹³ This is a great concern as we have seen with several of the Asivikelane reports that waste management in the City is already at a dismal standard. Communities need improved waste collection services across all informal settlements in Ekurhuleni.

According to the 2021/22 budget document, the Department of Environmental Resources and Waste Removal is planning to appoint 6 development contractors, 36 community- based contractors, 11 recycling cooperatives and 17 local cooperatives to “clean” townships and

¹⁰ <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/about-the-city/budget/annual-budget-report/draft-budget-2021-2022/4986-a-f-19-2021-annexure-e2-1/file.html>

¹¹ https://asivikelane.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/asivikelane-release-16_final.pdf

¹² <https://asivikelane.org/releases/>

¹³ <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/about-the-city/budget/annual-budget-report/draft-budget-2021-2022/4986-a-f-19-2021-annexure-e2-1/file.html> Page 10.

informal settlements.¹⁴ This is welcomed by the communities however the communities are also requesting for transparency when it comes to the specifications of each contract so that they can monitor the contractors.

According to the 2021/22 SDBIP, the City's Environmental Resource and Waste Management Department plans to use the city's internally generated revenue to provide 50 informal settlements with walk in bulk containers (amounting to R1.5 Million) in the 2021/22 financial year. This is a reduction of 20 settlements from the previous year.¹⁵ Other concerns include that:

- The budget document does not provide a list of informal settlements that are going to benefit from these interventions.
- It is also problematic that there is no budget allocation for the year 2022/23. This begs the question to what the plan is for the year 2022/23 when it comes to servicing settlements that will not benefit from this project in year 2022/23.

Department	Wards	Project name	2021/22 Draft budget	2022/23 Draft budget	2023/24 Draft budget
Environmental Resources & Waste Management	City Wide	Supply of Bulk Containers (Corporate)	1 500 000	-	1000 000

In the 2021/22 draft IDP there is a project dedicated for informal settlements in ward 102 and ward 3. This is good and exciting news for the informal settlements that will benefit through the project however there are several issues with the budget not being detailed:

- The IDP does not show what kind of waste management enhancement will take place.
- The lack of detail makes it hard to know if communities will receive refuse bags, skips or if roads will be improved for waste collection trucks.

Department	Wards	Project name	2021/22 Draft budget	2022/23 Draft budget	2023/24 Draft budget
Environmental Resources & Waste Management	102, 3,3	Enhancing Waste Management Service Delivery in Informal Settlements)	2 400 000	2 400 000	2 400 000

Overall, there is a need for the City to provide improved refuse removal services in the short and medium-term and to improve transparency by engaging informal settlement communities on the delivery processes and providing more detailed information in the budget.

The City should provide more information on how the Human Settlements capital for 2021/22 has been allocated between the department's various programmes and specifically, what has been allocated for the provision of serviced stands.

¹⁴ <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/about-the-city/budget/annual-budget-report/draft-budget-2021-2022/4991-a-f-19-2021-annexure-b-1/file.html> Page 179.

¹⁵ <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/about-the-city/budget/annual-budget-report/draft-budget-2021-2022/4985-a-f-19-2021-annexure-e1-1/file.html> Page 15.

Informal Settlement communities welcome the efforts and programs that the City is implementing to address the housing backlog through human settlements mega projects".¹⁶ According to the 2021/22 IDP, the mega projects will deliver 59 000 serviced stands, and 100 000 housing opportunities (these are subsidised units, social housing units and fully subsidised walk-up units). The timeframe for the delivery of these stands and units is the duration of the term of the current administration. The IDP further states that in parallel to these mega projects, interim basic services will be provided to informal settlement households. It is therefore possible that informal settlements will receive taps and toilets through this department's programs.

However, the MTREF document does not provide disaggregated budget allocations for the following projects:

- The Development of Serviced Stands Programme
- Undertaking detailed planning to enable the development stands for human settlements projects.
- Implementation of informal settlement management plan.
- Re-blocking

As mentioned, there are no specific allocations disclosed in the budget for the above programs. This is a problem as the Department of Human Settlement's aggregate draft 2021/22 capital budget of R629 million is R46 million lower than its adjusted 2020/21 budget of R675 million. Even though the department's budget is set to increase to R750 million in 2022/23, before decreasing to R733 million in 2023/24, the fact that there is a decrease in 2021/22 in the department's budget is a cause of concern.¹⁷ (Note that these amounts are taken from the City's Draft 2021/22- 2023/24 Capital Budget by Ward "Annexure F".¹⁸ They City's main draft budget document shows higher capital budget amounts for the Vote called Human Settlements.¹⁹ This suggests that the Vote includes departments in addition to the Human Settlements Department.

The capital budget shows project specific allocations and include ward information but does not indicate under which broader human settlement programme each project falls.²⁰ It also makes it difficult for one to see which projects specifically delivers services to informal settlements.

Furthermore in the IDP it states that no settlements have been targeted for upgrading in 2021/22. This is a big problem in communities as Asivikelane 15 indicates that there are community members who have been living in their communities for more than 5 years. These community members have been promised to be upgraded 5 years ago but these upgrading projects have not started.²¹ Community members have thus endured poor interim services for half a decade or more.

Better consultation is also requested by communities when budgeting and planning for projects. The Vlakplaas community in ward 107 were not consulted about the project, Vosloorus, Non Motorised Transport. NMTs are described as sidewalks and bike paths by the Department of Forestry's,

¹⁶ <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/about-the-city/budget/annual-budget-report/draft-budget-2021-2022/4990-a-f-19-2021-annexure-a-1/file.html> Page 304.

¹⁷ <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/about-the-city/budget/annual-budget-report/draft-budget-2021-2022/4987-a-f-19-2021-annexure-f-1/file.html>, Page 1

¹⁸ <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/about-the-city/budget/annual-budget-report/draft-budget-2021-2022/4987-a-f-19-2021-annexure-f-1/file.html>

¹⁹ See <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/about-the-city/budget/annual-budget-report/draft-budget-2021-2022/4991-a-f-19-2021-annexure-b-1/file.html>. Page 63

²⁰ See <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/about-the-city/budget/annual-budget-report/draft-budget-2021-2022/4987-a-f-19-2021-annexure-f-1/file.html>

²¹ <https://asivikelane.org/releases/>

Fisheries and the Environment²². This is welcomed by the community however there is concern when it comes to the amounts allocated for the project. The Vlakplaas community only has 7 taps servicing close to 1000 households moreover the community endures broken chemical toilets and barely any refuse collection services. However, the budget for NMT, a project that they do not need or asked for is increasing by R10 million by 2022/23.

The community is requesting for the Vosloorus NMT budget to be reallocated to water, sanitation and refuse collection.

Department	Wards	Project name	2021/22 Draft budget	2022/23 Draft budget	2023/24 Draft budget
Human Settlements	107, 44,44	Vosloorus NMT	3000 000	13000 000	15 000 000

Informal settlements requiring Municipal intervention

1. Steve Biko (Etwatwa) When is the issue of housing/relocation and proper sanitation going to be resolved?
2. Steve Biko (Etwatwa) has been submitting their needs for a long time, the community need a clinic, access roads
3. Tsakane ext 18 (Railway) we made a submission to the IDP process that we would like to the City to assist us with Re-blocking our settlement.

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https://www.environment.gov.za/projectsprogrammes/nonmotorizedtransport_southafrica#:~:text=The%20promotion%20of%20non%2Dmotorized,of%20design%20standards%20and%20signage.