Want to win the election? Fix informal settlements' taps and toilets!

10 million people in South Africa live in informal settlements. For comparison, this is equivalent to about two-thirds of the voter turn-out in the 2016 municipal elections. Informal settlement services should therefore be central to the campaign of every political party.

Yet, while political parties have been campaigning, informal settlement services have stagnated, and in many metros they have even deteriorated. Since April, the sanitation traffic lights have worsened in Buffalo City and Cape Town, access to water declined in Johannesburg, and refuse removal and water access worsened in Tshwane.

eThekwini is the one exception, with refuse removal and sanitation traffic lights improving. Access to water and refuse removal improved marginally in Nelson Mandela Bay, but their traffic lights remain red. Ekurhuleni managed to keep services stable and again got a clean bill of health from the Auditor General. The number of informal settlements participating in Asivikelane has also continued to grow, with 284 of the estimated 3000 settlements nationally now participating.

For more information contact: infosa@internationalbudget.org