Metros keep installing new taps and toilets, but why do the traffic lights stay red?

Metros are continuously installing new taps and toilets. But almost all metros are drowning in a sea of red traffic lights. And residents keep reporting poor access to water and sanitation.

One could easily jump to the conclusion that informal settlements are just growing too fast, and that government can’t keep up. This would be a mistake. As long as taps and toilets are not maintained and repaired when they break, the installation of new taps and toilets will not help.

Almost half of Asivikelane residents tell us that when taps and toilets break, they are never fixed or it can take up to a month or more before they are attended to. Our research shows that metros and national government can address this problem by:

- Checking on the work of contractors
- Designing fault reporting systems that work for informal settlement residents
- Allocating enough money for repairs and maintenance
- Earmarking funding for repairs and maintenance
- Earmarking funding for infrastructure in national government grants to metros

Asivikelane is reaching out to various government actors to find solutions to these problems. Let us know if you can help?

Cape Town:
- In BM Section, Khayelitsha, new toilets were installed and residents received refuse bags.
- Chemical toilets were installed in Ndfosya, and the toilets in Kanana were cleaned.
- Waste collection improved in Witands and in Taiwan Zola Square, Khayelitsha.

Johannesburg:
- Residents from Thepsipong - Emnandini said that they have regular access to water due to the ongoing installation of new taps.
- Water tanks were filled regularly in Marikana Section 2, Mountain View Matjotjombeni, Essenvalle and Matlalazwonyana 3, while residents from Mountain View Matjotjombeni also said that water trucks now come to their settlement more frequently.
- Residents from Mountain View Matjotjombeni - Protea South, Mandela Square Block and Rabe Ridge - New Hani Park report that waste collection has improved significantly.

Ekurhuleni:
- Waste collection improved in Witsand and in Taiwan Zola Square, Khayelitsha.
- Chemical toilets were installed in Ndofaya, and the toilets in Kanana were cleaned.
- Toilets are now cleaned weekly in KGS (Kiva, Gqabi and Sonto).

Tshwane:
- Access to water improved in various sections of Tshwane, with two new water tanks delivered to Tshwane.
- The cleaning and chemical toilets in Tshwane also improved
- Waste collection improved in Cemetery View Block 4 and Tshwane.

Nelson Mandela Bay:
- Concrete slabs were built for water tanks in Area 11 Gunguluza.
- Expanded Public Works Programme workers have been employed to clean Area 11 Gunguluza as well as train the community on water use.
- Waste collection improved in Area 11 Gunguluza, Khayamandli Extension and NU39 Motherwell.
- Toilets are now cleaned weekly in KOS (Kwa, Gqabi and Sonto).

Buffalo City:
- Water tanks were delivered to Duncan Village and other informal settlements in response to water-shedding in the city.
- Toilets were repaired in Beacon Bay and Dayini, while sewage pipes and sewage stations were repaired in Brawen Ext 10, Duncan Village and Scenery Park.
- Refuse removal improved in Brawen Ext 10 and Duncan Village.

Ekurhuleni:
- Communal taps were installed in Etwatwa-Steve Biko.
- Waste collection has improved in Etwatwa-Steve Biko, Skoonplas, Tshakane Ext 17 and Winnie Mandela Zone.

2,072 residents from 250 settlements participated in this round. Detailed results and comments from residents themselves are available at: asivikelane.org/releases. For more information contact: info@asivikelane.org