



ASIVIKELANE

LET'S PROTECT ONE ANOTHER

VOICES OF INFORMAL
SETTLEMENT RESIDENTS
ABOUT BASIC SERVICES



Submission on the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro Municipality draft 2022/2023 Draft Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework

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Submitted by: Luthando OVC Care Centre, SA SDI Alliance and IBP South Africa as part of
the Asivikelane Campaign
representing informal settlements communities in Nelson Mandela Bay municipality.

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Key recommendations:

The following recommendations are based on an analysis of the 2022/23 draft budget, the draft Integrated Development Plan (IDP), and the inputs of informal settlement residents:

- The municipality must provide more detailed information on the implementation of the Bucket Eradication Programme, as well as a budget breakdown. We acknowledge that the municipality has allocated more funds to eradicate the use of bucket toilets and to ensure that all informal settlement residents have access to municipally-provided sanitation. This is a welcome and positive development. However, evidence from Asivikelane shows that many informal settlement residents do not have access to any



sanitation, and the budget does not show how far the increased allocation will go in eradicating the sanitation backlog (page 4).

- The municipality must ensure that enough has been budgeted to provide all informal settlement residents with access to piped water within 200m of their dwelling, as is in keeping with the municipality's minimum standards.
- We ask the municipality to set aside additional resources for emergency water provisions. Given the ongoing drought and the warning in the IDP that some areas in the municipality might run out of water by July this year, it is of concern that we cannot see any budget for the provision of water trucks and tanks. About 6% of Asivikelane residents depend on water trucks and water tanks for their water supply, and this source will become even more important as taps run dry in certain areas. The municipality must allocate enough money to ensure that all residents will continue to have uninterrupted access to water (pages 4-5).
- The municipality should provide a separate budget item for refuse removal in informal settlements to ensure that residents have access to waste removal services, including the provision of refuse bags (page 5).
- The municipality must indicate which specific informal settlements are going to benefit from its electrification and public lighting programmes (page 5).
- The municipality must publish a detailed repairs and maintenance budget in its draft budget. This will tell us how much the municipality is planning to spend on repairs and maintenance in the coming year, but will also allow us to see if this budget is in line with the National Treasury guideline of 8% of the value of its Plant, Property and Equipment (PPE) budget (page 6).
- In addition, it should ringfence money for repairs and maintenance *in informal settlements*. The evidence from the Asivikelane initiative has shown that many residents have services but, due to taps and toilets not being fixed, they are unable to use these services.

- The municipality should publish targets for each of its informal settlements upgrading projects in order that residents can see exactly how many taps and toilets they will receive, and when they will be delivered (page 6).

1. Who are we?

The Asivikelane campaign monitors basic service delivery in informal settlements and amplifies the voices of residents who share their lived experience, and what they need from the municipality to improve their access to services such as water, sanitation and refuse removal.¹ The Asivikelane campaign is an initiative of twelve community and civil society organisations working in all eight the metropolitan municipalities in South Africa. Luthando OVC Care Centre and the SASDI Alliance are the Asivikelane partners in Nelson Mandela Bay. The SASDI Alliance is an NPO whose mission is sustainable poverty alleviation and building networks of livelihood strategies. Luthando OVC is a community organisation which seeks to improve living conditions amongst citizens, especially in informal settlements. IBP South Africa is an NGO whose goal is to capacitate informal settlement communities to engage in municipal budgets.

2. Service delivery challenges experienced by Nelson Mandela Bay informal settlement residents

Evidence collected by the Asivikelane campaign shows that residents living in informal settlements face several service delivery challenges.

2.1 Inadequate access to sanitation

In April 2022, 48% of residents who participated in Asivikelane said that they do not have a toilet, and another 5% of residents use self-dug pit toilets. More than 50% of residents do not have access to municipally-provided sanitation.

Residents with access to sanitation mostly use chemical toilets, but have reported that there are not enough toilets. These toilets are also not cleaned and drained regularly.

¹ <https://asivikelane.org/>

In the draft 2022/23 IDP, the municipality says that it is currently assessing the sanitation backlog in recently established informal settlements. It also notes that there are approximately 5 800 bucket toilets being used in informal settlements. While the municipality services these buckets, they are trying to replace them through the Bucket Eradication Programme.

2.2 Insufficient water supply to informal settlements

Also in April 2022, 69% of residents said that they do not have enough water. Almost all the residents have access to a source of water, with 79% using communal taps, and 6% relying on a water tank or truck. There are, however, not enough communal taps, and broken taps are not fixed. Taps also often run dry; a situation exacerbated by the current drought.

The 2022/23 draft IDP quotes figures from Statistics South Africa which suggest that all households in the municipality have access to piped water on site or off site. The IDP recognises, however, that there is a sanitation backlog in newly established settlements and that the municipality is currently assessing this situation and addressing it by installing standpipes.

2.3 Lack of access to waste removal services

In April 2022, 32% of residents said that they do not receive any waste removal services. Another 4% said that while they usually receive the service, their waste was not collected in the previous seven days. Some residents also said that they do not receive refuse bags or dust bins from the municipality.

In its draft Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP), the municipality has set itself a target of providing waste removal services to 61% of known informal settlements. While laudable, this will still leave almost 40% of settlements without such a service.

2.4 Public lighting and electricity provision in informal settlements

Public lighting has been raised as a major issue by residents. In August 2021 91,5% of residents said that there is not enough public lighting in their settlements. This is a significant safety concern for residents, with 36.3% saying that they do not feel safe using communal toilets at night.

2.5 Inadequate repairs and maintenance

The lack of maintenance and repairs is a major challenge in the municipality's informal settlements. In March 2022, 70% of residents participating in Asivikelane said that a fault is never fixed when they report it to the municipality. Only 10% said that faults are fixed within one month. In its draft IDP, the municipality also recognises maintenance and repairs as a major challenge and states that it will address it through its operating budget.

Period it takes to fix broken tap, toilet or water tank	%
Week or less	1%
Month or less	9%
1-3 months	5%
Never	67%
I don't know	18%
Total	100%

3. Evidence from the 2022/23 draft budget: where should the municipality make adjustments?

Based on the service delivery issues highlighted by the Asivikelane campaign, this analysis focuses on budget allocations for water, sanitation, electricity, refuse removal, repairs and maintenance and informal settlement upgrading. As seen below, the analysis was limited by the lack of detailed budget information.

3.1 Budget allocation for sanitation

The municipality uses its Bucket Eradication Programme as the main intervention to address sanitation challenges in informal settlements. The programme provides interim services which include combined ablution facilities and chemical toilets.

	2021/22 capital budget	2022/23 draft capital budget	2023/24 draft capital budget	2024/25 draft capital budget
Bucket Eradication Programme	R3 million	R6,17 million	R6,16 million	0

We welcome that the budget more than doubles from 2021/22 to 2022/23. But in the absence of more detailed plans, we cannot see whether allocation is enough to eradicate the bucket system as well as provide adequate sanitation to all informal settlements.

The SDBIP says that the municipality plans to provide 2000 new sewer connections which will meet minimum standards. These minimum standards include full flush toilets, communal facilities or ventilated improved pit toilets. But it seems unlikely that 2000 new connections will address the large sanitation backlog.

3.2 Budget allocations for water

The municipality aims to address the water backlog in informal settlements through the provision of standpipes. The draft budget shows that the allocation for “Water: Installation of Standpipe and Associated Water Meters” has increased by 20% to R6 million in 2022/23.

According to the draft SDBIP, the municipality plans to provide 2 000 new water connections, which meets the minimum standards. The municipality’s minimum standards include piped water inside a dwelling, piped water inside a yard, and/or a community standpipe within 200m from a dwelling, as well as water connections in communal facilities.

While we welcome the increase in the budget for standpipes, we do not have enough information to see if this allocation is sufficient for the target of 2 000 new water connections, nor whether it will ensure that all informal settlement residents have *adequate* access to water.

	2021/22 capital budget	2022/23 draft capital budget	2023/24 draft capital budget	2024/25 draft capital budget
Water: Installation of Standpipes and associated Water Metres	R5 million	R6 million	R8 million	R9 million

Given the ongoing drought and the warning in the IDP that some areas in the municipality might run out of water by July this year, it is of concern that we cannot see any budget allocations for the provision of water trucks and tanks. About 6% of Asivikelane residents depend on water trucks and water tanks for their water supply, and this source will become even more important as taps run dry in certain areas.

3.3 Budget allocations for refuse removal

The municipality does not have a separate budget allocation for the provision of refuse removal services to informal settlements. This lack of information makes it impossible to see how much the municipality has budgeted for refuse removal service.

We call on the municipality to publish detailed operating budgets for services such as refuse removal, including how much has been set aside for the delivery of this service in informal settlements.

3.4 Budget allocations for electrification

The municipality's draft capital budget includes a project called "Undeclared Informal Electrification" but it does not specify what the project delivers. It is also of concern that there is no increase in the project's budget from last year. The municipality also does not provide any information on the backlog in access to electricity although it states that "universal access to safe and reliable electricity for all residents" is one of its strategic focus

areas.

	2021/22 budget	2022/23 draft budget	2023/24 draft budget	2024/25 draft budget
Undeclared Informal Electrification	R36 million	R36 million	0	0

The budget for the municipality’s street lighting programme has increased almost fourfold from R16 million in 2021/22 to almost R65 million in 2022/23. The municipality, unfortunately, doesn’t say how much of this budget has been allocated for street or public lighting in informal settlements specifically. We would urge the municipality to budget sufficiently for public lighting in informal settlements as it has a major impact on residents’ safety and access to all other services.

	2021/22 budget	2022/23 draft budget	2023/24 draft budget	2024/25 draft budget
Street lighting programme	R16,42 million	R64,82 million	R66,2 million	R68, 16 million

3.5. Repairs and maintenance in informal settlements

The evidence from Asivikelane shows that repairs and maintenance are critical in ensuring that residents have access to basic services. Even where there are services, the fact that broken taps and toilets are not fixed means that residents cannot use these services. The municipality itself has stated in its IDP that repairs and maintenance are strategic priorities.

Unfortunately, the draft budget does not show how much has been allocated for repairs and maintenance in general, or repairs and maintenance in informal services in particular. The budget document says that details will be provided during the “finalisation of the budget, as was the case in prior budget reports”.

The lack of information also means we cannot see if the municipality has met the National Treasury target of spending 8% of the value of its PPE on maintenance and repairs.

We call on the municipality to make this information publicly available in its draft budgets to allow residents to see how much it has budgeted for maintenance and repairs.

3.6 Informal settlement upgrading

The specific budget allocations discussed above are set to improve basic services to informal settlement residents in the short term. Informal settlement upgrading projects are intended to provide a more holistic and dignified basket of basic services for residents in the longer term.

There are numerous informal settlement upgrading projects listed in the draft IDP. The IDP shows the names of the specific settlements as well as what will be delivered, for example standpipes or toilets.

We welcome this level of detail, but urge the municipality to include specific delivery targets for each of the projects, such as how many standpipes will be installed and/or how many toilets will be provided.

It is clear, however, that the projects in the IDP do not completely align with the projects listed in the draft capital budget. This makes it difficult to be certain which projects are going to be implemented in the coming budget year.

Informal settlement upgrading is for the most part done through the Informal Settlement Upgrading Partnership Grant (ISUPG) which specifically provides funding for informal settlement upgrading.

Some of the upgrading projects are also funded out of the Urban Settlement Development Grant (USDG), which is also used to fund more short-term service delivery interventions.

	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 draft budget	2023/24 draft budget	2024/25 draft budget
Informal Settlement Partnership Upgrading Grant	R316 million	R334,87 million	R349,63 million	R365,33 million

Urban Settlement Development Grant	R593,14 million	R588,94 million	R614,9 million	R642,57 million
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While the draft MTREF does not show how these funds will be applied, we welcome the increase in the ISUPG and urge the municipality to use the flexible USDG to ensure that informal settlement residents receive permanent and interim services in the short term while longer-term upgrading projects are being completed.

Source list

1. 2022/23-2024/25 draft budget :
https://www.nelsonmandelabay.gov.za/DataRepository/Documents/2022-23-draft-budget-report_AaySP.pdf
2. Draft 2022/23 Integrated Development Plan :
https://www.nelsonmandelabay.gov.za/DataRepository/Documents/draft-2022-23-idp-noted_CvOpv.pdf
3. Draft detailed capital budget 2022/23 :
https://www.nelsonmandelabay.gov.za/DataRepository/Documents/2023-2025-draft-capital-works_MmgGM.pdf
4. Draft 2021/22 budget:
https://www.nelsonmandelabay.gov.za/DataRepository/Documents/2021-22-draft-budget-report-tabled-to-council_2W403.pdf
5. Draft 2021/22 detailed capital budget:
https://www.nelsonmandelabay.gov.za/DataRepository/Documents/2022-2024-draft-capital-works-plan-15-march-2021_nCkyl.pdf
6. <https://asivikelane.org/>
7. <https://www.facebook.com/Luthando-OVC-Care-Centre-180849766861638/>
8. <https://sasdialliance.org.za/about-us/the-alliance/corc/>

