How Stellenbosch’s budget can protect informal settlement residents

As Stellenbosch Municipality enters the final stages of drafting its 2023/24 budget, Asivikelane participants ask that the following issues be prioritised:

**ALLOCATE BUDGET TO ALL INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS FOR WATER, SANITATION, AND A CLEAN LIVING ENVIRONMENT.**

14% of Stellenbosch informal settlement residents do not have enough water and 30% do not have access to a clean toilet or weekly waste collection.

**ALLOCATE FUNDING AND CAPACITY FOR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF TAPS AND TOILETS.**

Maintenance and repairs of existing service infrastructure is not only cheaper than installing new services, but it also increases its lifespan. On average, Stellenbosch takes between 1 and 3 months to fix broken services, and 14% of residents say that repairs are never made.

**ENGAGE RESIDENTS WHEN SETTING TARGETS AND FOCUS ON WOMEN’S VOICES.**

Stellenbosch’s most recent Service Delivery Budget Implementation Plan (2022/23) has delivery targets of 50 toilets and 50 taps per year for all informal settlements. A community-based assessment of access is needed as these targets are likely to fall far short of actual service needs. Delivery goals should focus on the needs of women and girls, as they are most at risk when services are insufficient and unsafe to access.