

# CITY OF CAPE TOWN: SUBMISSION ON 2024/25 DRAFT BUDGET

## Asivikelane recommends that the City of Cape Town includes the following in its final 2024/25 budget:

- We are encouraged by the City's dedicated allocation for water and sanitation operations and maintenance, but urge the City to work closely with informal settlement residents to ensure the targeted spending of this money.
- Provide a detailed breakdown of which specific items it intends to spend the above on.
- Include a specific line item in its budget for the repairs and maintenance of communal taps and toilets and their connection infrastructure in informal settlements.
- Include in its budget separate line items for the servicing of chemical and portable toilets.
- Include dedicated funding to pay for skills training for communities so they can participate in the basic repairs and maintenance of infrastructure in informal settlements.

## What does the City of Cape Town's draft 2024/25 budget say?

We are very happy about Cape Town's allocation of R745 million for water and sanitation operations and maintenance. The City, however, doesn't provide a detailed breakdown of exactly what this amount will fund. Water and sanitation operations and maintenance activities can range from the regular servicing of chemical and portable toilets to the repairs of communal taps and toilets. It is particularly concerning that the City doesn't show what has been set aside for the latter. If funding is not set aside for this specific purpose, there is a danger that repairs and maintenance to informal settlement infrastructure will be crowded out by the needs of formal areas.

## What is the problem?

The lack of maintenance and repairs is a major challenge in the City's informal settlements, with residents often not being able to use the taps and toilets in their settlements because faults are not being repaired. This challenge contributes to huge water losses, impacts environmental health, and affects the lifespan of water and sanitation infrastructure in informal settlements.

- Previously, 60% of residents said something was wrong with their tap.
- 80% said their toilets were broken.
- 65% of residents said that, a month after reporting, their broken tap or toilet it was still not fixed.



*Left to right: Drains blocked (Khayelitsha), broken toilets (Europe), broken taps (Imizamo Yethu), and toilets drained (Khayelitsha)*