



Submission on the City of Ekurhuleni's Draft 2023/24 Budget

Date: 25 April 2023

Submitted by: Planact, 1to1 Agency of Engagement and International Budget Partnership South Africa as part of the Asivikelane Campaign¹ representing informal settlements communities in the City of Ekurhuleni.

Contact details: Mike Makwela, 076 922 6054, mike@planact.org.za

Based on an analysis of the City of Ekurhuleni's draft 2023/24 budget, the draft 2023/24 Integrated Development Plan (IDP), the draft 2023/24 Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) and the input of informal settlement residents in Ekurhuleni; Planact and 1to1 would like to submit the following recommendations:

- **The City must ensure that sufficient funds are allocated for the installation of enough standpipes and water tanks in informal settlements to ensure that these communities have sufficient access to water.**

Ekurhuleni's informal settlement communities applaud the City's plan to continue to provide interim services (such as communal standpipes and water tanks) instead of only relying on service delivery through long-term upgrading projects. However, in the 2023/24 draft budget, the allocation for new standpipes and water tanks, as well as the number of water points to be installed in the coming financial year, has not increased from 2022/23. It is unlikely that this allocation will be enough to ensure sufficient access to water for all informal settlement residents. (See page 6)

- **The City must provide a specific budget allocation for the installation of full-flush toilets.**

There is no dedicated budget allocation for the provision of full-flush toilets, although the draft IDP does say that "proper sanitation" is being delivered parallel to the delivery of interim services such as chemical toilets.² If such a project exists, the

¹ <https://asivikelane.org/>

² Draft 2023/24 Integrated Development Plan, page 5

Metro must publish the relevant budget allocation and the names of the settlements that will benefit in the coming year. (See page 7)

- **The City must provide more chemical toilets to improve the toilet-to-household ratio, and bring it closer to one toilet per household.**

The draft IDP reiterates that the ratio of chemical toilets to households has improved from 1:10 to 1:5 in some informal settlements but has not set a target for further improvements to this ratio. The draft SDBIP indicates that the Metro plans to hire the same number of additional chemical toilets as it did last year. We ask that the Metro clarify this budget allocation as it seems unrealistic. (See page 7)

- **The City must be transparent about what the W&S: Emergency SCV to Informal Settlements project delivers and which settlements will benefit.**

The name of this project includes reference to informal settlements, but we do not know what it delivers. Therefore, it is not possible to understand how the 60% reduction in this project's budget will impact service delivery to informal settlements. (See page 7)

- **The City must allocate more money to ensure that all informal settlements receive a refuse removal service.**

The Metro has not increased its budget for basic refuse removal in informal settlements from 2022/23 to 2023/24, despite many community members still saying that they do not have access to refuse removal. We ask the Metro to increase this budget allocation, as well as specify exactly what this budget funds (e.g., does it include an allocation for refuse bags?). The Metro also seems to only provide this service to what they consider "recognised" informal settlements. We ask the Metro to share their list of recognised informal settlements and indicate what kind of refuse removal services they plan to provide to settlements not included in the list. The lack of adequate refuse removal can have severe health and environmental consequences. (See pages 7 & 8)

- **The City must allocate more money to provide public lighting in informal settlements, as this will make it safer for women and children.**

The budget for the installation of solar high mast lights has been cut by more than half, which is concerning given the safety challenges faced, especially by women and children in informal settlements who must often walk long distances in the dark to use communal taps and toilets. The provision of public lighting should be prioritised as a matter of urgency. The Metro should also indicate how much of the programme benefits informal settlements. While we welcome the increase in the informal

settlement electrification programme, we urge the municipality to publish the list of settlements that will receive electricity connections. (See page 9)

- **The City should increase the target for the provision of serviced stands, as this contributes to providing a home and dignity to residents who live in informal settlements.**

Ekurhuleni plans to provide 76% fewer serviced stands than it did in 2022/23, which is hugely concerning given the growth of informal settlements and the ever-increasing housing backlog. The City should increase the number of stands it plans to provide and increase the budget allocation accordingly. (See page 10)

- **The City must ensure the speedy completion of the Villa Lisa Ext 4 upgrading project.**

The project has been in the budget for years and has still not been completed. The Metro should allocate sufficient money for this project to ensure its speedy completion. (See page 10)

- **The City should prioritise repairs and maintenance in informal settlements and increase its budget for repairs and maintenance in general.**

The City has once again not published the amount it plans to spend on repairs and maintenance of water and sanitation infrastructure in informal settlements. We urge Ekurhuleni to ring-fence a budget allocation for informal settlement repairs and maintenance. Residents' basic human rights are denied if they don't have access to water or sanitation because a tap or toilet is broken. We also ask the Metro to increase its total budget for repairs and maintenance to be in line with the 8% of the value of its Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) as prescribed by the National Treasury. Finally, we ask the Metro to reconsider the 19% decrease in the repairs and maintenance budget for sanitation and increase it instead. (See pages 10 & 11)

1. Asivikelane assessment of the state of service delivery in Ekurhuleni

Planact and 1to1 are Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) that have been working with informal settlements for over 40 years.³

1to1 and Planact, along with NGO partners organisation across South Africa and the International Budget Partnership South Africa (IBP South Africa), are part of the Asivikelane campaign. The Asivikelane campaign gives a voice to informal settlement residents in South Africa's major cities who face severe basic service shortages. The campaign supports informal settlement communities to monitor water, sanitation and refuse collection, and to engage with their metro about these services.

³ <https://planact.org.za/>; <https://1to1.org.za/>

In April 2023, Asivikelane asked informal settlement residents what they would like the City to allocate more money for in its 2023/24 budget, to address their specific service delivery challenges. This section summarises residents' requests and provides supporting evidence from the most recent Asivikelane surveys.

1.1 Water provision in informal settlements

In April 2023, **94%** of residents said they want **more money allocated for water**.

Residents said that they want more money for taps as there are not enough taps in their settlements. They also want the Metro to allocate funds to improve the drainage below communal taps. Additionally, Residents ask that the Metro increase the budget for temporary services to install more communal water tanks, clean them regularly and increase the frequency of water delivery by water trucks.

Evidence collected in February 2023 shows the reasons residents have asked the Metro to prioritise budget allocations for the provision of water.

In February, 16% of residents said they did not have access to enough water in the previous seven days. The majority of residents (68%) use communal taps, explaining the need for more taps. Many said there are not enough taps, and that, taps are located far from their dwellings. Some taps were also broken or had low water pressure, while some residents had no water because of loadshedding.

Residents who depend on water tanks and trucks said the tanks are not filled often enough, that there are not enough tanks and that the water trucks do not come frequently enough.

1.2 Sanitation in informal settlements

94% of residents want the metro to **spend more money on sanitation**.

Residents would like the metro to provide more toilets. Residents also ask the Metro to allocate money to replace old chemical toilets and VIPs with full-flush toilets, as well as improve cleaning and draining of existing chemical and VIP toilets.

The needs identified are echoed by evidence collected in February. Around 84% of all residents participating in Asivikelane in Ekurhuleni use chemical toilets. In comparison to the other metros, Ekurhuleni has been performing well in cleaning and draining chemical toilets. Residents, however, urge the Metro to clean and drain the toilets more than once a week, as once is not enough. Residents have also indicated that there are simply not enough chemical toilets for all households in their settlements.

1.3 Waste removal in informal settlements

A total of **96%** of residents want the Metro to budget **more money for refuse removal** in informal settlements.

Residents want the Metro to spend more money on refuse removal to provide services where there are none, provide more regular waste removal where services already exist, provide bins and skips where there are none, as well as provide refuse bags to informal settlement residents. Residents also request more money for cleaning communal dumping areas.

Evidence collected in February support these asks as 18% of residents said they did not have their waste collected by the Metro in the previous seven days. Some residents have no waste collection services at all, while others said their dumping sites are not cleaned often enough.

1.4 Repairs and maintenance in informal settlements

A total of **96% of residents** say they want the Metro to **allocate more money for repairs and maintenance** of water and sanitation infrastructure for informal settlements.

Residents want the Metro to fix broken and blocked toilets, and broken taps, water tanks and leaking pipes.

The lack of repairs and maintenance is a critical issue in informal settlements, often leading to residents having no access to basic sanitation and water services because their taps and toilets are broken.

Residents have told Asivikelane that even when they report breakages, the City does not fix faults or takes a very long time to fix them. In September 2022, 72% of residents said they reported faulty water and sanitation infrastructure. Unfortunately, more than half of those residents said the faults they reported were still not fixed more than a month later.

2. Evidence from the City's draft 2023/24 budget

2.1 Water and Sanitation budget allocations for informal settlements

Water and sanitation services in informal settlements are provided by the City's Water and Sanitation Department.

2.1.1 No budget increase for standpipes and water tanks

Despite the need for more taps in Ekurhuleni, the budget for additional water points in informal settlements, which include standpipes and water tanks, has not increased from 2022/23 to 2023/24. The Metro has also not increased the target for the installation of more water access points.

Table 2.1.1: New Water Access Points

Performance indicator	Annual Target 2022/23	Annual Target 2023/24	Adopted Budget 2022/23 Rand	Draft Budget 2023/24 Rand
Number of Additional Water Access Points Provided to Informal Settlements	100	100	10 000 000 ⁴	10 000 000

Source: Page 532- Draft IDP 2023/34 and 2022/23 Final Departmental SDBIP IDP page 34

2.1.2 No budget for full-flush toilets

There is unfortunately no project in the budget specifically for the installation of full-flush toilets and no indication in the IDP that the Metro plans to deliver flush toilets to informal settlements. The Metro only refers to “proper sanitation” but does not specify what this means.

But the Metro does show in its SDBIP, which is included in its draft 2023/24 IDP, that it plans to deliver the same number of additional chemical toilets as it did in 2022/23. The budget allocation for the chemical toilets is however unclear and should be explained and confirmed by the Metro.

Table 2.1.2: Chemical toilets

Department	Performance indicator	Annual Target 2022/23	Annual Target 2023/24	Adopted Budget 2022/23 Rand	Draft Budget 2023/24 Rand
Water and Sanitation	Number of Additional Chemical Toilets Provided to Informal Settlements	200	200	400 000	*

Source: Page 532 - Draft IDP 2023/24 and 2022/23 Final Departmental SDBIP page 34

Note: * The metro does provide an allocation of R381 225 373 for 2023/24, but it seems unrealistic in light of allocations in previous years.

The Metro should also indicate if the budget allocation makes provision for the delivery of toilets suitable for use of people with disabilities, as well as ensure that the toilets are suitable and safe to use by women (e.g., include a light inside the toilet).

The budget for **W&S: Emergency SVC to Informal Settlements** has been cut by 60%. The budget documents still do not explain what this project provides, and it is, therefore, unclear how this decrease will impact informal settlement water and sanitation service delivery.

⁴ Adjusted budget update is not available.

Table 2.1.3: Emergency SVC to informal settlements

Department	Project Name	Ward	Adjusted Budget 2022/23 Rand	Source of Funding 2023/24	Draft Budget 2023/24 Rand	% change from 2022/23 - 2023/24
Water and Sanitation	W&S: Emergency SVC to Informal Settlement (Corporate)	73	10 000 000	ISUPG	4 000 000	-60%

Source: Page 27 of the Draft 2023/24 Capital Budget per ward

2.2 Budget allocations for informal settlement refuse removal

The budget allocation for basic refuse removal in informal settlements has not changed from 2022/23. Unfortunately, the draft IDP does not provide any additional information on what this budget includes, e.g., does it include an allocation for refuse removal bags, or payment to contractors to remove refuse, etc?

Table 2.2.1: Waste collection in informal settlements

Department	Performance indicator	Annual Target 2022/23	Annual Target 2023/24	Adopted Budget 2022/23 Rand	Draft Budget 2023/24 Rand
Environmental Resource and Waste Management	Percentage of known informal settlements receiving basic refuse removal services	100%	100%	76 454 372 ⁵	76 454 372

Source: Draft Integrated Development Plan 2023/24 page 327 and page 18 City Wide SDBIP 2022/23

The Metro explains that the performance indicator measures the proportion of “known” or “recognised” informal settlements which receive at least a basic standard of service for refuse collection and cleaning services. Recognised or known informal settlements refer to the list of informal settlements developed by the Metro’s Human Settlements Department.⁶

The Metro doesn’t include a list of these recognized settlements in its IDP, and it is unclear if all informal settlements in Ekurhuleni are on the list. The Metro also doesn’t explain if settlements *not* on the list will receive any refuse removal services. It should again be noted that in February 2023, 18% of residents participating in Asivikelane said that they do not receive any solid waste collection service.

The adopted 2022/23 SDBIP includes a specific allocation for bulk walk-in containers for informal settlements. This item does not appear in the draft SDBIP for 2023/24.

Table: 2.2.2: Walk-in bulk containers for informal settlements

⁵ <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/ANNEXURE-A-2022-23-CITY-WIDE-SDBIP.pdf> page 18

⁶ Draft Integrated Development Plan 2023/24 page 327

Department	Performance indicator	Adopted 2022/23 Budget Rand	Draft 2023/24 Budget Rand
Environmental Resources & Waste Management	Number of informal settlements provided with walk in bulk containers	1 500 000	-

Adopted Departmental SDBIP 2022/23, page 15.

Note: * The item does not appear in the draft SDBIP as contained in the draft IDP.

There is also not a separate budget allocation specifically for the provision of bulk containers to informal settlements in the 2023/24 draft capital budget. However, there is a new project for the provision of bulk waste containers, but it is unclear how much of this will benefit informal settlements. It should be noted that this allocation of R1 million is less than the R1,5 million allocated in the 2022/23 SDBIP.

Table 2.2.3: Bulk Waste Containers

Department	Project Name	Adopted Capital Budget 2022/23 Rand	Adjusted Budget 2022/23 Rand	Draft Budget 2023/24 Rand
Environmental Resources & Waste Management	Supply of Bulk Containers (Corporate)	No budget allocation provided in capital budget	No budget allocation provided in capital budget	1 000 000

Source: Page 7 of the Draft 2023/24 Capital Budget by ward

2.3 Electrification of informal settlements

The budget for Electrification of Informal Settlements city wide increases by 3,6% from R187 million in 2022/23 to R194 million in 2023/24.

Table 2.3.1: Electrification of informal settlements

Department	Project Name	Ward	Adjusted Budget 2022/23 Rand	Source of Funding 2023/24	Draft Budget 2023/24 Rand	% increase from 2022/23 - 2023/24
Energy	Electrification of Informal Settlements (Reblocking Areas) (Corporate)	City Wide	187 200 000	ISUPG	194 000 000	3,63%

Source: Page 4 of the Draft 2023/24 Capital Budget per ward

The Metro does not say which settlements will benefit from the Electrification of Informal Settlements programme.

The budget for the installation of high mast lights has, however, been cut by more than half. In addition, we do not know how much of this budget will be spent in informal settlements. This is a major concern, given the significant impact inadequate public lighting has on safety in informal settlements, especially for women and children.

Table 2.3.2: Installation of High Mast Lights

Department	Project Name	Ward	Adjusted Budget 2022/23 Rand	Source of Funding 2023/24	Draft Budget 2023/24 Rand	% increase from 2022/23 to 2023/24
Energy	Installation of Solar High Mast Lights (Corporate)	City Wide	3 300 000	USDG	1 500 000	-54,55%

Source: Page 3 – Draft 2023/24 Capital Budget per ward

2.4 Upgrading of informal settlements

One of the key interventions in Ekurhuleni is the provision of serviced sites to residents who live in informal settlements.

The draft SDBIP for 2023/24 explains that “A site refers to a predetermined area where basic services can be provided, there is some degree of security of tenure and to which a household can be situated or relocated and/or upgraded. This refers to the number of all sites serviced with new connections for water and sanitation to a basic level within the municipality in the financial year. These sites do not include the construction of top structures”.

According to the SDBIP, only 970 serviced sites will be provided in 2023/24, which is a very large decrease from the 2022/23 target of 4 050. The 2023/24 SDBIP also shows that R101 million has been allocated for the provision of serviced sites. The 2022/23 SDBIP didn’t provide a budget for this deliverable, so we have no budget to compare the latest allocation against.

Table 2.4.1: Serviced Sites

Department	Performance indicator	Annual Target 2022/23	Annual Target 2023/24	Budget 2022/23 Rand	Draft Budget 2023/24 Rand
Human Settlements	Number of serviced sites	4 050	970	No budget set out in SDBIP for 2022/23 or in the capital budget for 2022/23	101 010 000

Source: Page 328 on Draft 2023/24 IDP

The SDBIP further indicates that the sites are to be delivered by the Department of Human Settlements, but their capital budget does not include any specific project and budget allocation for the provision of serviced sites. A large number of projects in the department’s capital budget are funded from the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant, and one is left to assume that these projects will provide serviced sites. However, the project names only refer to areas/settlements and do not specify which services will be delivered (e.g., water, sanitation, etc.).

While there are numerous upgrading projects in the draft 2023/24 budget, we would like to highlight the Villa Lisa Extension 4 project, as some residents participating in Asivikelane live in this settlement. The budget allocation for this project decreases by 64%. As no reason for this decrease is provided, it is unclear if the project is wrapping up and therefore needs a smaller allocation, or whether the Metro expects a delay in 2023/24 in the implementation of the project. In all metros, informal settlement upgrading projects are often plagued by delays and we hope that Ekurhuleni can speed up the completion of this project.

Table 2.4.2: Villa Lisa Extension

Department	Project Name	CCA	Ward	Adjusted Budget 2022/23 Rand	Source of Funding 2023/24	Draft Budget 2023/24 Rand	% increase
Human Settlements	Villa Lisa Extension 4	Vosloorus	45	11 544 989	ISUPG	4 110 000	-64%

Page 16 of the Draft Capital Budget per ward for 2023/24

2.5 Repairs and maintenance in informal settlements

Repairs and maintenance is a critical issue in informal settlements. Despite this, the Metro does not indicate how much is budgeted for repairs and maintenance of basic service infrastructure in informal settlements in 2023/24.

Furthermore, the Metro has not budgeted enough for repairs and maintenance in general. National Treasury has set guidelines requiring municipalities to budget 8% of the value of their Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) for repairs and maintenance of infrastructure, but Ekurhuleni has budgeted only 4,1% of the value of its PPE.

Another major concern is the marginal increase in the total repairs and maintenance budget, as well as no increase for the repairs and maintenance of water supply infrastructure, and an almost 20% cut to the repairs and maintenance budget for sanitation infrastructure. It is unclear how these will impact repairs and maintenance in informal settlements.

Table 2.5.1: Repairs and Maintenance

Repairs and maintenance budget by asset class			
	Full Year Forecast 2022/23 R000	Draft budget 2023/24 R000	% increase
Total Repairs and Maintenance	2 563 342	2 577 991	1%
<i>Water Supply Infrastructure</i>	256 218	256 218	0%
<i>Sanitation Infrastructure</i>	299 397	242 596	-19%
R&M as % of PPE	4.10%	4.10%	

Source: Annexure B, Draft Medium-Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework 2023/24-2025/26, page 38

2.6 Concern over capital budget decrease

Finally, we would like to raise our concern about the overall decrease in the Metro's capital budget and the decreases in the capital budgets of the departments responsible for the delivery of permanent basic services. Specifically, we are concerned about the potential negative impact these cuts may have on the provision of permanent basic services to informal settlements.

Table 2.6.1: Capital budget 2024/25⁷

Department	2022/23 Adjusted Budget Rand	2023/24 Draft Budget Rand	24/25 Draft Budget Rand	2025/26 Draft Budget Rand	% change between 2022/23 and 2023/24
Water and Sanitation	675 750 000	587 000 000	582 500 000	606 566 000	-13%
Energy	594 733 106	555 439 499	579 550 104	598 026 483	-7%
Human Settlements	555 330 987	500 091 000	527 485 943	552 050 000	-10%
Environmental Resources & Waste Management	147 750 000	54 100 000	36 750 000	78 800 000	-63%
Total Capital Budget	3 280 248 878	2 724 502 706	2 798 145 442	2 915 668 479	-17%

Source: Annexure C: Capital Budget Per Ward: 2023/24 MTREF, page 1

The Water and Sanitation Department provides taps and toilets to informal settlements, while the Energy Department is responsible for the electrification of informal settlements and for the provision of public lighting. The Department of Human Settlements implements the upgrading of informal settlements projects, while Environmental Resources and Waste Management is responsible for waste collection in informal settlements. While the total capital budget has decreased by 17% between the adjusted 2022/23 budget and the draft 2023/24 budget, the cuts to the departmental budgets vary between 7% for the Department of Energy, to 63% for the Department of Environmental Resources and Waste.

References:

City of Ekurhuleni. 2022. **Departmental Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan**. Available online: <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/about-the-city/budget/annual-budget-report/>

City of Ekurhuleni. 2023. **Draft 2023/24 Budget and Draft 2023/24 Integrated Development Plan**. Available online: <https://www.ekurhuleni.gov.za/about-the-city/budget/annual-budget-report/>