



Submission on Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality's Draft 2023/24 Budget

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Submitted by: Botshabelo Unemployed Movement, International Budget Partnership South Africa and St James Apostolic Faith Mission as part of the Asivikelane Campaign¹ representing informal settlement communities in Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality.

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Evidence from the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality's draft 2023/24 budget and Integrated Development Plan

Saint James Apostolic Faith Mission, the Botshabelo Unemployed Movement and the International Budget Partnership South Africa have reviewed and conducted an analysis of the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality's draft 2023/24 budget and its draft Integrated Development Plan. Based on the analysis, and input from informal settlements residents we work with, we would like to submit the following recommendations:

- **The Metro must set aside a specific allocation for the installation of standpipes in informal settlements, as well as indicate which settlements will receive standpipes in the 2023/24 financial year.**

¹ www.asivikelane.org

The Metro has indicated that additional standpipes will be installed in two settlements as part of the informal settlement upgrading programme, but it is not clear whether standpipes will be installed in any other settlements in Mangaung where residents either do not have standpipes, or do not have enough standpipes. The Metro is also urged to provide a specific allocation for water tanks as interim water provision, an important intervention to ensure that residents have continuous access to water while they wait for the installation of permanent taps. (See page 5)

- **The Metro is urged to ensure that it spends the full allocation of R77,8 million it has set aside for the eradication of bucket toilets so that all informal settlement residents in Mangaung have access to basic and dignified sanitation.**

While it is encouraging that the Metro has indicated how much it plans to spend to eradicate bucket toilets, it has not provided a breakdown of all the projects which will contribute to this strategic objective. It is therefore impossible to see what exactly will be delivered on the ground, and which settlements will benefit. Of concern is the 56% decrease in the Alternative Sewer Solutions to informal settlements budget, which seems to have replaced the Alternative Sanitation project. We ask the Metro to reconsider this budget cut. (See pages 6 and 7)

- **The Metro must provide details on how much of its 2023/24 budget has been allocated for refuse removal in informal settlements. We ask the Metro to prioritise the delivery of this service in its budget.**

It is concerning that the Metro does not have any specific capital budget allocation for the provision of communal bins close to communal taps and toilets, or for the provision of skips in informal settlements. We urge the Metro to allocate money towards this. We also call on the Metro to provide an allocation for refuse bags for informal settlement residents. (See page 7)

- **We welcome the 2700% increase in the allocation from the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant for the electrification of informal settlements project. This is a major step towards ensuring that all Mangaung's informal settlements are provided with access to electricity.**

The budget increased from R1 million in 2022/23 to R28 million in the draft 2023/24 budget. We however urge the Metro to indicate which settlements will receive electricity in the coming financial year. We further welcome the 25% increase towards the Electrification programme which is funded by the Urban Settlement Development Grant, although it is not clear how much of that project will benefit informal settlement residents. We also welcome the 38% increase in the public lighting budget from R8 million in 2022/23 to R11 million in 2023/24. We urge the municipality to prioritise the installation of public lighting in Mangaung's informal settlements, as it is dangerous for women and children especially to use communal taps and toilets in the dark. (See page 8)

- **We welcome the increase in the total allocation for the various informal settlement upgrading projects in the Metro.**

However, we ask the Metro to provide more information on the specific services (e.g., standpipes and flush toilets) that will be provided to these settlements in the coming financial year. (See page 9)

- **The Metro should prioritise repairs and maintenance in informal settlements and further increase its total budget for repairs and maintenance in line with the National Treasury guideline.**

We urge the Metro to ringfence a budget allocation for the repairs and maintenance of water and sanitation infrastructure in informal settlements, as residents are denied their right to access water and sanitation if a tap or toilet is broken and cannot be used. The Metro has increased its total repairs and maintenance budget, and increased the share of the value of Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) that it budgets for repairs and maintenance from 2,5% in 2022/23 to 3,3% in 2023/24. We welcome this increase but urge the Metro to set aside more to ensure that it gets closer to National Treasury's prescript of 8% of the value of PPE. (See pages 9 and 10)

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

Botshabelo Unemployed Movement (BUM)² is a community-based organisation which seeks to address the issues faced by the unemployed and serves both the rural and peri-urban poor communities of their region. St James Apostolic Faith Mission³ is a religious organisation which, among others, advocates for the rights of informal settlement residents in Bloemfontein in the Mangaung Metro. IBP South Africa is an NGO whose goal is to capacitate informal settlement communities to engage in municipal budgets.

BUM, St James AFM and IBP South Africa, along with NGO partner organisations across South Africa, are part of the Asivikelane campaign.⁴ 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 municipality about these services.

In April 2023, Asivikelane asked informal settlement residents what they would like the Metro 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, 98% of residents said they wanted **more money allocated for water**.

More than half of all residents surveyed said they want the Metro to spend more money on taps because they have none, while residents who live in areas where there are taps asked that the Metro spend money on installing more taps and allocate funds to improve the drainage below the communal taps.

Residents also asked the Metro to install more communal water tanks, ensure the regular cleaning of water tanks and increase how often water trucks deliver water.

Evidence collected in February shows why residents want the Municipality to prioritise budget allocations for the provision of water. A total of 38% of residents surveyed said they did not have enough water in the previous seven days.

Many residents said that they have to walk far to access their water source, while some residents said that they do not have enough taps. Residents also reported that some taps have low water pressure.

1.2 Sanitation in informal settlements

97% of residents want the Metro to spend more money on sanitation.

² <https://www.facebook.com/botshabelounemploymentmovement/>

³ https://www.facebook.com/people/St-James-Apostolic-faith-Mission/100070716150528/?paipv=0&eav=AfZMCPkpkAE2yd7DT_121DvLz5NRP7LpXG6iSz8xVz4MGtPrcFs8IO5PYAYdM2F-fTs&rd

⁴ www.Asivikelane.org

Almost half of the residents want the Metro to allocate money to provide toilets where there are none, as well as provide more toilets where there are not enough toilets. They also want the Metro to replace old toilets that can't be used and ideally replace chemical and Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) toilets with flush toilets. Where chemical or VIP toilets are being used, residents want the Metro to allocate more money to improve the drainage of these toilets and ensure that they are cleaned regularly.

The need for more money for toilets is urgent, as 82% of all the residents that participated in Asivikelane in February said they either have no toilet (33%) or use a self-dug pit toilet (49%).

1.3 Waste removal in informal settlements

99% 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 regular waste removal where there are already services, provide wheelie bins and skips, as well as provide refuse bags to informal settlement residents. Residents also requested more money for the cleaning of communal dumping sites.

Evidence collected in February illustrates the need for improved waste collection in informal settlements. No resident had their waste collected by the Metro in the week prior to the survey.

1.4 Repairs and maintenance in informal settlements

All residents say that they want the Metro to **allocate more money for repairs and maintenance** of informal settlement water and sanitation infrastructure.

Residents want the Metro to spend more money to fix broken and blocked toilets, broken taps, and broken and leaking pipes. They also want repairs and maintenance to improve water pressure.

Residents have told Asivikelane that even when they report breakages, the Metro does not fix faults or takes a very long time to fix them. In September 2022, 60% of residents said they had reported faulty water and sanitation infrastructure. Unfortunately, 100% of those residents who did report the faults said the faults were still not fixed more than a month after reporting.

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

2.1 Water provision in informal settlements.

There is no general project for the installation of standpipes across the Metro. The Metro should allocate funds towards this, given that almost 40% of Asivikelane residents said in February that they did not have access to enough water.

The Metro's draft IDP lists all the projects which are part of its informal settlement upgrading programme. It also provides information on the "status" of each project and, in some cases, indicates what is being delivered in that informal settlement.⁵ According to this list, additional communal taps will be installed in Matlharantlheng and Maditlhabela. Matlharantlheng is part of the Asivikelane campaign. However, the status does not indicate how many additional taps will be installed in these two settlements.

A number of other projects on the list refer to the installation of water reticulation, but do not indicate if this includes the installation of communal standpipes.

⁵ Page 57 of the draft 2023/24 Integrated Development Plan.

The Metro does not provide a specific allocation for water tanks, which is an important intervention to ensure that there is access to water where there are currently no taps or not enough taps.

2.2 Allocations towards new communal toilets

Mangaung has indicated that it plans to spend R77,8 million on the eradication of the bucket system in 2023/24. The Metro shows that this is the total amount they are planning to spend to reach this strategic objective, but does not indicate the specific projects that form part of this total allocation.

2.2.1 Eradication of Bucket System and VIP toilets

IDP Strategic Objective	Strategic Objective	2023/24 Draft Budget	2024/25 Draft Budget	2025/26 Draft Budget
Water and sanitation provision	Eradication of Bucket System	77 829 601	134 581 642	115 647 938

Page 8 of the draft 2023/24 Capex Booklet

The IDP also indicates that the metro will use alternative sanitation solutions to provide flushing toilets to households while these households await the construction of bulk infrastructure. This alternative sanitation solution will “ensure (...) continued access to decent sanitation that can be converted to conventional waterborne sanitation when bulk is built”.⁶

In its 2022/23 budget, the Metro included an “Alternative Sanitation” project under its Informal Upgrading Partnership Grant (ISUPG) division. This project is not in the 2023/24 draft budget; instead, there is now a project called “Alternative Sewer Solutions to Informal Settlements”. We assume this is the same project aimed at the provision of alternative sanitation to informal settlements for this analysis.

2.2.2 Alternative Sewer Solutions to informal settlements

Detail of expenditure	2022/23 Adopted Budget	2023/24 Draft Budget Rand	2024/25 Draft Budget Rand	2025/26 Draft Budget Rand	% change from 2022/23 to 2023/24
Alternative Sewer Solutions to informal settlements	24 500 000	10 900 000	22 000 000	12 000 000	-56%

Page 14 of the draft 2023/24 Capex booklet

Unfortunately, the metro does not indicate what type of sanitation the project will deliver nor how many settlements will benefit. It is concerning that the budget allocation for Alternative Sewer Solutions to Informal Settlements has decreased by 56% between 2022/23 and 2023/24.

The status descriptions of some upgrading projects funded by the Informal Settlement Upgrading Partnership Grant indicate that it is for “sanitation installation”, but do not explain what the projects will deliver and whether permanent toilets will be installed in this coming financial year. According to the draft IDP, many of the projects are still in the planning phase, or in the process of appointing consultants which suggests that these settlements will probably not receive toilets in 2023/24.

There are also projects funded by the Urban Settlement Development Grant where the projects descriptions include “sanitation installation”, but it is not clear what these projects will deliver and whether these projects will benefit informal settlement residents.

⁶ Draft 2023/24 Integrated Development Plan, page 36.

2.3 Allocations for refuse removal in informal settlements

There is no separate budget allocation for the provision of refuse removal in informal settlements. Inadequate refuse removal can potentially have a negative impact on residents' health and their environment.

There is evidence that waste collection is one of the services funded by the contracted services budget, as the Metro has indicated in the narrative discussion of the draft Medium Term Revenue Expenditure Framework (MTREF) that the contracted services budget has increased to address "service delivery priorities" such as litter picking and street cleaning.⁷

2.3.1 Contracted services:

Expenditure	2022/23 Adjustment Budget Rand	2023/24 Draft Budget Rand	% increase
Contracted services total	656 776 000	720 741 000	9.72%

Page 40 of the Draft 2023/24 MTREF

It is, however, not known how much of the budget for contracted services has been set aside for refuse removal, and specifically for refuse removal in informal settlements.

While the draft IDP indicates that the Metro provides a refuse removal service to informal settlements, it does not provide any information on what this entails (e.g., how often this happens and whether residents receive refuse bags).⁸

There is no specific capital project which provides funding for the acquisition of bulk waste containers to be used in informal settlements.

The increase in the total capital budget for Waste and Fleet Management seems like a positive development, but the lack of detail in the budget means that we cannot see exactly what the project funds, and if it will improve refuse collection in informal settlements.

2.3.2 Capital allocation for Waste and Fleet Management

Expenditure by vote	2022/23 Adjustment Budget Rand	2023/24 Draft Budget Rand	% increase
Waste and Fleet Management	2 233 000	10 000 000	348%

Page 41 of the Draft 2023/24 MTREF

2.4 Electricity and public lighting in informal settlements

Electricity installation is done by Mangaung's electricity entity Centlec, which redistributes electricity from Eskom in the Mangaung Metro.

The 2023/24 budget suggests that the Metro has prioritised the electrification of its informal settlements. The Informal Settlement Upgrading Partnership Grant allocation for the electrification of informal settlements has increased by an astounding 2700%, from R1 million in 2022/23 to R28 million in the draft 2023/24 budget.

⁷ Page 21 and 21 of the 2023/24 Draft MTREF

⁸ Page 70 of the draft 2023/24 IDP.

2.4.1 Electrification

Expenditure	2022/23 Adopted Budget	2023/24 Draft Budget	% increase
Electrification (ISUPG Grant) ⁹	1 000 000	28 000 000 ¹⁰	2700%
Electrification (USDG) Grant	20 000 000	25 000 000	25%

Sources: Page 28 of draft 2023/24 MTREF, pages 14 and 22 of the 2022/23 adopted Capex Booklet, page 19 of the draft 2023/24 Capex Booklet.

We welcome the 25% increase from 2022/23 allocation for a second electrification programme funded by the Urban Settlement Development Grant, but it is not known how much of this project will benefit informal settlement residents.

We urge the Metro to work with speed to implement the projects funded out of the ISUPG and the USDG. We also urge the Metro to provide a list of settlements which will receive electricity in the coming financial year.

The Metro has also increased the allocation Centlec has set aside for the Installation of Public Lighting.

2.4.2 Public Lighting

Expenditure	2022/23 Adopted Budget	2023/24 Draft Budget	% increase
Installation of public lighting	8 000 000	11 000 000	38%

Sources: Page 22 of the 2022/23 adopted Capex Booklet, page 19 of the draft 2023/24 Capex Booklet.

While we welcome the 38% increase in the 2023/24 draft budget for public lighting, we cannot see how much of this programme will benefit informal settlements, nor which settlements will receive public lighting.

The provision of public lighting in informal settlements should be a priority for the Metro, as a lack of public lighting makes it unsafe for residents, especially women and children, to use communal taps or toilets at night.

2.5 Allocations for upgrading projects

The draft IDP shows a list of informal upgrading projects. The status descriptions of these projects show what they will deliver for water and sewer reticulation, the installation of bulk sewers, stormwater infrastructure, drains, roads, bridges and electricity.

According to the draft 2023/24 IDP, the total budget allocation for these upgrading projects has increased by 6% from 2022/23.

2.5.1 Informal Settlement Upgrading total allocation

Detail of expenditure	Budget 2022/23 Rand	2023/24 Draft Budget Rand	% increase from 2022 Rand
Total for Informal Settlement Upgrading projects.	263 893 000	279 617 000	6%

Page 59 of the Draft Integrated Development Plan

While the increase in the budget allocation and the transparency about the status of upgrading projects are welcomed, it is concerning that many of the projects are still in the beginning stages of the

⁹ The ISUPG electricity project was named Informal Settlements Electrification in 2022/23

¹⁰ The amount is contained in the ISUPG project breakdown in the written MTREF but is also referred to in the capital budget for Centlec under a project named Capital Conditional Grants & Subsidies.

procurement process, so it is impossible to see whether services will be delivered on the ground for all the listed upgrading projects in the coming financial year.

The Metro has decreased its budget for the Acquisition of Land for Informal Settlements Relocations by 30%. No additional information is provided, making it impossible to see where this land is, which settlements will be relocated and what the potential impact of the decrease in the budget for land acquisition will be.

2.5.2 Acquisition of Land for Informal Settlements Relocations

Detail of expenditure	Budget 2022/23 Rand	2023/24 Draft Budget Rand	% increase
Acquisition of Land for Informal Settlements Relocations	20 000 000	14 000 000	-30%

Page 58 of the Draft 2023/24 Integrated Development Plan

2.6 No repairs and maintenance budget item for informal settlements

The Metro does not provide any specific budget allocation for repairs and maintenance of informal settlement water and sanitation infrastructure.

A total of 100% of Asivikelane residents asked the Metro to spend more on repairs and maintenance to fix taps, toilets, pipes and drains, illustrating the severe impact of broken taps and toilets on access to adequate water and sanitation.

The overall budget for repairs and maintenance in the Metro has increased by 10% between 2022/23 and 2023/24. As a result, the Metro's spend as a percentage of Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) has increased from 2.5% in 2022/23 to 3.3% in the 2023/24 budget. While we welcome this increase, this share of PPE is still significantly lower than the National Treasury's guideline of 8%.

2.6.1 Repairs and maintenance by Asset Class

Repairs and maintenance by asset class				
	2022/23 Budget	Adjusted	2023/24 Draft Budget	% Increase
Total repairs and maintenance	895 081 000		986 278 000	10%
<i>Water supply infrastructure</i>	134 452 000		171 748 000	28%
<i>Sanitation infrastructure</i>	109 019 000		96 329 000	-12%
R & M as % of PPE	2.50%		3.30%	

Page 46 of the Draft 2023/24 MTREF

We welcome the 28% increase for repairs and maintenance of water supply infrastructure. We urge the Metro to focus on repairs and maintenance of taps and pipes in informal settlements to ensure that no one is denied access to adequate water.

However, the budget for repairs and maintenance of sanitation infrastructure has decreased by 12%, and we are concerned about the possible impact this will have in informal settlements.