



City of Cape Town Rapid Budget Response

We are very happy about Cape Town’s allocation of R1 billion for informal settlement services in its draft budget for the 2024/25 financial year.

According to the City’s budget document, this amount includes the following:

- R745 million for water and sanitation operations and maintenance.
- R252 million for door-to-door waste collection and 7-day area cleaning.
- R27 million for energy access services.

In addition to the R1 billion, we are also happy that the City increased the budget for replacement shipping containers that are used for solid waste management in informal settlements from R500,000 in its adjusted 2023/24 budget to R3,2 million in 2024/25.

We do however have a few questions related to key informal settlement services:

- What exactly will the R745 million for water and sanitation operations and maintenance fund?
- Does it include funding for the repairs and maintenance of informal settlement taps and toilets specifically?
- If funding is not set aside for this specific purpose, and these settlements have to compete for a share of the general municipal repairs and maintenance budget, there is a danger that repairs and maintenance to informal settlement infrastructure will be crowded out by the needs of formal areas.
- Does this amount include items like the draining and cleaning of chemical and portable flush toilets – a persistent problem in informal settlements?
- Does the allocation for waste collection include funds for the provision of refuse bags for informal settlement households – again a pressing issue?
- What will the “energy access services” pay for specifically? The budget document provides no further detail.

Asivikelane will make a formal submission on the City’s draft budget. In the meantime, further information on these items would help us to understand how informal settlements will benefit from these promising developments.