Nelson Mandela Bay Rapid Budget Response

We are concerned about the large budget cuts for the provision of water and sanitation to informal settlements.

Water

We are worried about the substantial decrease in the Metro’s budget for the provision of standpipes and water meters, from R8 million in the adopted 2023/24 budget to only R1 million in the draft 2024/25 budget. What is the reason for the massive cut, and how will it affect the provision of water to informal settlements?

Sanitation

Similarly, we are concerned about the Metro’s decision to significantly reduce the budget for the Bucket Eradication Programme, which provides communal ablution facilities to informal settlements. What is the reason for the decrease from R23 million in the adopted 2023/24 budget to R10 million in the draft 2024/25 budget? How will this impact informal settlements waiting for decent sanitation?

Refuse Removal

The Metro doesn’t show what it has budgeted for refuse removal in informal settlements. In most metros, this service is outsourced. While we welcome the increase of 33% in the budget for contracted services for refuse removal, we would like to know how much of this increase will benefit informal settlements.

Repairs and maintenance

The lack of repairs and maintenance of informal settlement taps and toilets is a big challenge in the Metro. While we are happy about the overall budget increases of 2.6% and 9% respectively for water supply infrastructure and sanitation infrastructure repairs and maintenance, we would ask that the Metro set aside dedicated funds for repairs and maintenance in informal settlements.