



## Submission on the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality's Draft 2024/25 Budget

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Submitted by: St James Apostolic Faith Mission<sup>1</sup> and International Budget Partnership South Africa<sup>2</sup>  
as part of the Asivikelane Campaign<sup>3</sup>  
representing informal settlements communities in the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality.

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### Recommendations

Evidence collected in informal settlements paints a dire picture about the state of sanitation in the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality. Not a single informal settlement resident in Mangaung surveyed by Asivikelane in 2023 used a municipally provided toilet. Residents resorted to digging their own pit toilets, which comes with considerable health and safety risks.

**We recommend that the Metro do the following to ensure that residents receive access to safe and dignified sanitation:**

- Provide an allocation for interim sanitation to be installed pending the installation of bulk infrastructure for permanent sanitation. The Metro has provided an *interim water* allocation in the budget; this illustrates that the city is aware of the need for interim services in informal settlements. There is, however, no allocation for *interim sanitation* services in the budget.
- Increase the 2024/25 budget allocation for Alternative Sewer Solutions in Informal Settlements. This has decreased by 54% from the 2023/24 adopted budget.

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<sup>1</sup> St James Apostolic Faith Mission is a religious organisation which, among others, advocates for the rights of informal settlement residents in Bloemfontein in the Mangaung Metro.

<sup>2</sup> International Budget Partnership South Africa (IBP South Africa) is a non-profit organisation whose goal is improved service delivery to poor communities through larger budget allocations and more effective and efficient budget implementation. IBP South Africa pursues this goal by supporting grassroots campaigns that strengthen and integrate the oversight and accountability system.

<sup>3</sup> In March 2020, IBP South Africa and its civil society partner organisations launched the Asivikelane Initiative. This initiative gives a voice to informal settlement residents in South Africa's major cities who face severe basic service shortages. It supports informal settlement communities to monitor the delivery of water, sanitation and refuse collection services, and to engage with their municipality about these services. <https://asivikelane.org/about/>

- Publish the names of the settlements that will benefit from allocations under the Bucket Eradication strategic objective, as well as the number of toilets that will be delivered as part of this objective.
- Increase the budget for unblocking and maintaining sewer reticulation, which includes the emptying of pit latrines. This allocation should also include emptying of self-dug pits in informal settlements.
- The Metro should prioritise the speedy implementation of the projects for bulk water and bulk sewer infrastructure, to ensure this is in place for the installation of flushing toilets. The 2022/23 Annual Report highlighted that delays in the installation of toilets in informal settlements was caused by the slow implementation of bulk water and sanitation infrastructure projects.
- The Metro should speed up implementation of the Waterborne Sanitation Projects in Ward 8 and Ward 17. Both these projects have been in the budget for several years, but have been delayed considerably. These projects provide for new sanitation service points that meet the minimum standard of sanitation.

## **1. Detailed Submission**

Residents in informal settlements in Mangaung surveyed by Asivikelane have indicated that they have no municipally provided sanitation. Therefore, this submission focuses on the allocations in the draft 2024/25 budget that could improve the provision of sanitation in Mangaung's informal settlements.

### **1.1 Eradication of the Bucket System**

Mangaung has increased the allocation for achieving the strategic objective of the "eradication of Bucket System, VIP Toilets" by 26,6% from the 2023/24 adjusted budget to the draft 2024/25 budget.

**Table 1.1.1: Eradication of the Bucket system**

R'	Strategic objective	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25-2026/27 draft Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework			%Increase from 2023 approved to draft 2024/25
		Draft budget	Adopted budget	2024/25	2025/26 estimate	2026/27 estimate	
Water and sanitation provision	Eradication of Bucket System, VIP Toilets	77 829 601	68 799 603	87 068 695	125 747 502	160 486 985	26.554%

Source: Page 8 of the approved Capital Expenditure Booklet for 2023/24, and page 10 of the draft Capital Expenditure Booklet for 2024/25

This increase is very encouraging as there is dire need for dignified and adequate sanitation in the Metro. The Metro, however, does not say which individual projects will be funded to achieve this objective, nor to what extent informal settlements specifically will benefit from these projects. We urge them to provide this information.

The Metro should also indicate the number of toilets, and the type of sanitation, they aim to install under this strategic objective. This information is critical to ensure residents can play their oversight role. The Metro should also indicate how much, if any, share of this allocation has been set aside for interim sanitation. There is no reference to the provision of interim sanitation in the draft budget. A dedicated budget for the provision of interim sanitation will ensure that informal settlement residents have access to sanitation while they are waiting for permanent sanitation to be provided, and will not have to resort to digging their own pit toilets.

## **1.2 Alternative Sewer Solutions for Informal Settlements**

The Metro indicates in its draft 2024/25 Integrated Development Plan (IDP) that it will explore alternative sanitation solutions to provide flushing toilets to households awaiting the construction of bulk infrastructure. The draft IDP states that this solution will ensure continued access to decent sanitation that can later be converted to conventional waterborne sanitation when bulk infrastructure is built, but does not provide any further

information.<sup>4</sup> This is a key intervention as Mangaung has a severe bulk infrastructure backlog that has stifled sanitation projects.

However, we are concerned that the budget allocation which likely relates directly to alternative sanitation solutions has been cut by 54% from the 2023/24 approved budget.

**Table 1.2.1 Alternative Sewer Solutions to Informal Settlements**

Detail of expenditure	2023/24 approved budget	2024/25 draft budget	2025/26 draft budget	2026/27 draft budget	% increase from approved 2023/24 to draft 2024/25
Alternative Sewer Solutions to informal settlements	10 900 000	5 000 000	6 500 000	10 600 000	-54%

Page 28 of the adopted Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework 2023/24-2025/26, and Page 14 of the draft 2024/25 Capex Booklet

We ask the Metro to:

1. Increase this allocation in order to speed up the provision of sanitation to informal settlements;
2. Specify exactly what type of sanitation solution this project funds; and
3. Explain the relationship between this project and the Eradication of the Bucket system objective.

### 1.3 Emptying of Pit Latrines

Given informal settlement residents' reliance on pit toilets, we are concerned about the decrease in the budget allocation for the unblocking and maintenance of sewer reticulation, which includes the emptying of pit latrines. The budget has decreased from R62 million in the adopted 2023/24 budget to R54,4 million in the draft 2024/25 budget.

**Table 1.3.1 Emptying of Pit Latrines**

Expenditure item	2023/24 Adopted budget	2024/25 Draft budget	% Decrease
Unblocking and maintenance of sewer reticulation, including emptying of pit latrines	62 million	54,4 million	12%

Source: Page 6 of the draft 2024/25 MTREF, and page 6 of the adopted 2023/24 budget.

<sup>4</sup> Page 58 of the Draft 2024/25 Integrated Development Plan

Additionally, the Metro does not specify how much of this allocation has been set aside to empty pit latrines in informal settlements. The Metro should ensure sufficient funds are set aside in its final budget for emptying self-dug pit toilets in informal settlements .

#### **1.4 Ensure Implementation of Projects which Impact Sanitation in Informal Settlements**

The Mangaung 2022/23 Annual report painted a bleak picture of the multiple barriers and resulting delays to the delivery of toilets in informal settlements. Very few toilets were actually delivered to communities.<sup>5</sup>

A vast range of reasons were cited for the delays, including delayed appointments of private contractors, and the necessary bulk infrastructure needed for the Metro to be able to install sanitation not being in place.

It is, therefore, key that the Municipality prioritise bulk infrastructure projects, which are a precondition for delivering sanitation projects in the coming financial year.

We further call on the Metro to work with speed to implement the Waterborne Sanitation projects in Ward 8 and Ward 17. The projects have been in the budget for several years and are expected to deliver new sanitation service points at a minimum service level.

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<sup>5</sup> See Page 44 of the Mangaung 2022/23 Annual Report, which indicated that the Waterborne Sanitation projects in Ward 8 and Ward 17 did not deliver any new sanitation points due to delays in appointing private contractors.