Informal Settlement Repairs and Maintenance in the Draft Knysna Municipality 2026/27 Budget
29 April 2026

Knysna Municipality's draft 2026/27 Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework (MTREF) shows a welcome 30% increase in the overall budget for repairs and maintenance, as well as increases in allocations for the following infrastructure categories:

- water supply: 4%
- sanitation: 65%
- stormwater: 43%

We are pleased to note the increase in the municipality's repairs and maintenance budget as a share of the value of its Property, Plant and Equipment from 4.2% to 5.2%. While there is no dedicated allocation for repairs and maintenance in informal settlements, we hope that these areas will benefit from the municipality's increased emphasis on repairs and maintenance.

Repairs and Maintenance Budget Comparison (2024/25–2026/27)						
Rand	**2024/25 Full-year Forecast**	**2025/26 Adopted**	**2025/26 Adjusted**	**2025/26 Full-year forecast**	**2026/27 Draft**	**% change (2025/26 full-year forecast to 2026/27 draft budget)**
Total Repairs and Maintenance	**38,915,000**	**38,559,000**	**40,331,000**	**40,361,000**	**57,292,000**	**30%**
Water supply infrastructure	4,826,000	5,038,000	5,388,000	5,388,000	5,595,000	4%
Sanitation infrastructure	1,220,000	1,230,000	1,230,000	1,230,000	3,534,000	65%
Stormwater infrastructure	814,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,752,000	43%
R&M as % of PPE	3.5%	3.3%	4.2%	4.2%	5.2%	

Source: Knysna Draft 2026/27 MTREF[1], p. 26

Given the scale of maintenance challenges across the municipality – and particularly within informal settlements – Asivikelane's partnership with Knysna Municipality to implement a community-led repairs and maintenance model is critical. Training residents to carry out minor repairs on their own taps and toilets offers a cost-effective solution that addresses service delivery challenges while staying within the municipality's budget constraints.

In addition, the model can help address the municipality's significant water losses, which are driven by several factors, including leaking taps in informal settlements. According to the latest Annual Report, the municipality identified "Limit unaccounted water losses to less than 35%" as a key performance indicator in its amended 2024/2025 Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP). However, the most recent municipal data shows a water loss rate of 47.98% for 2025.[2] Despite this, the draft 2026/27 budget does not include a

[1] https://www.knysna.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Annexure-A_-Main-Budget-Tables.pdf
[2] Knysna Municipality 2024/25 Annual Report, p. 57. https://www.knysna.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2024_25-KM-ANNUAL-REPORT_26Jan26_.pdf

ring-fenced allocation to combat water losses, and the increase in repairs and maintenance spending for water supply infrastructure is small relative to the increase in the total repairs and maintenance budget.

Water Losses Table from the Knysna Annual Report 2024/25

The water losses report is as depicted below:

Water Distribution Losses	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Mega Litres Purified	5,484,402	5,807,434	3,714,913	4,623,913	4,159,861
Mega Litres lost during distribution	2,631,514	1,956,048	509,711	1,256,691	1,850,985
Percentage lost during distribution	47,98%	33,68%	13,72%	27,18%	44,5%

Table 24: Water Losses

Source: Knysna Annual Report 2024/25, p. 60. https://www.knysna.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2024_25-KM-ANNUAL-REPORT_26Jan26_.pdf