



Informal Settlement Disaster Management in the Draft Nelson Mandela Bay 2026/27 Budget 29 April 2026

1. Summary

In March 2025, [Asivikelane](#) asked residents in informal settlements across municipalities about the disasters they had experienced over the past year.¹ In Nelson Mandela Bay Metro, 100% of residents reported floods, while 46% said they were affected by shack or veld fires. Residents identified several measures that could reduce the impacts of disasters, including improved infrastructure, better planning, early warning systems, and education and awareness.

Despite this, the metro's draft 2026/27 budget and Integrated Development Plan (IDP) does not prioritise planning and budgeting for disaster management in informal settlements. The draft IDP lists a range of disaster management plans and interventions, but these have been deferred to the next (2027/28) IDP cycle and the IDP does not indicate how the specific challenges in informal settlements will be addressed. In addition, apart from several allocations for stormwater projects, the draft Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework (MTREF) does not include a dedicated budget allocation for disaster management.

2. Key Findings in the Draft IDP 2026/27

The metro lists a set of disaster management priorities in its draft 2026/27 IDP.² These range from planning and budgeting to early warning procedures. However, all of these have been deferred to the next IDP cycle (2027/28):

- A dedicated section in the IDP for disaster risk assessment and risk profiling.
- Disaster risk reduction programmes, including the identification and prioritisation of risk reduction measures.
- A section in the IDP on the Disaster Management Centre's budget and operational activities (the centre is responsible for coordinating disaster response).
- A budget for disaster risk reduction projects and awareness campaigns.
- Early warning procedures and plans.
- The inclusion of the Disaster Management Plan in the IDP.
- A draft Emergency Operations Plan covering all-hazard emergency response protocols.
- A Fire Master Plan.

¹ asivikelane.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Asivikelane-39Repairs-Maintenance_final2.pdf

² Integrated Development Plan of NMBM (2022/23 – 2026/27), pp. 25–35.

- A Fire Hydrant Maintenance Plan.

3. Key Findings in the Draft MTREF 2026/27

The draft 2026/27 MTREF lacks clarity regarding budget allocations for disaster management, stormwater investment, and infrastructure support for informal settlements.

3.1 Disaster Management

There is no separate budget allocation for disaster management in the draft budget. The metro's Disaster Management Unit, along with Fire and Emergency Services, Security Services, Traffic and Licensing Services, and Metro Police, falls under the Safety and Security Directorate. The metro publishes only the total budget for the directorate, which is set to increase marginally by 1.93% from the previous year.

Table 2: Safety and Security Directorate

	Full-year forecast 2025/26	Draft 2026/27	% difference
Budget [R'000]	R1,217,000	R1,241,000	1.93%

Source: NMBM Draft MTREF Budget 2026/27, p. 22

3.2 Stormwater and Drainage

Informal settlement residents have also reported challenges with the repair of infrastructure following disasters. However, there is no allocation for post-disaster infrastructure repair and recovery projects in the draft budget of the Infrastructure and Engineering Unit, which is responsible for infrastructure delivery in the metro.

The draft budget does include several ongoing and new stormwater projects. Table 3 compares the approved 2025/26 budgets with the draft 2026/27 budgets for these projects. Several of these capital projects are located in areas that include informal settlements, such as Zwide, New Brighton/KwaZakhele, Ikamvelihle, and Motherwell, but it is not clear how informal settlements will benefit from these projects.

The first five projects listed below are metro-wide, but again there is no indication of whether informal settlements are included. In addition, none of these projects will receive additional funding in 2026/27.

Table 3: Stormwater Improvements

[R'000]			
Project	Approved capital budget 2025/26	Draft capital budget 2026/27	% difference (approved to draft)
Reconstruction of Open Canals – Metro-wide	4,000	3,000	–25%
Reconstruction of stormwater system – Metro-wide	2,000	2,000	0%
Rehabilitation of Stormwater Ponds	2,000	2,000	0%
Flood Risk and Improvements (All rivers)	500	500	0%
Stormwater Improvements	3,000	2,000	–33%
Motherwell Canal Wetlands	500	500	0%
Stormwater Improvements Ikamvelihle: Ponds rehabilitation	1,500	1,500	0%
Cannonville/Colchester: Stormwater Improvements	2,000	2,000	0%
New Brighton/KwaZakhele: Bulk Stormwater Phase 1	3,000	3,000	0%
Blue Horizon Bay Bulk Stormwater Phase 1	500	500	0%
Zwide Bulk Stormwater	–	10,000	–
Stormwater Improvements – Msimka Street, Ward 17 – Phase 3	–	1,500	–
Rehabilitation of KAT Canal	–	5,000	–

Sources: NMBM, Draft Capital Budget by Project Programmes for 2025/26 - 2027/28, Annexure C; NMBM, Draft Capital Budget by Project Programmes for 2026/27 - 2028/29, Annexure A1.