

22 April 2025

**REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING THE DRAFT AMENDED IDP 2025/26 AND DRAFT MIDYEAR BUDGET  
2025/26-2027/28**

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Ekurhuleni Informal Settlements Movement (EISM) welcomes the invitation from the municipality for public comments following the notice given in terms of the law. The EISM is making its representations in terms of the following legislative provisions:

Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, section 152(a) and (e);  
Local Government Municipal System Act of 2000, Chapter 4, section 16(1)(a)(i) and (iv);  
Local Government Municipal Finance Management Act of 2003, Chapter 4, sections 22(a)(ii) and 23(1)(a).

The EISM is a coalition of informal settlement communities located in the City of Ekurhuleni (CoE). They include Duduza North, Barcelona Ext 34, Steve Biko, Etwatwa Extension 18, Etwatwa Overflow, Railway Ext 21, Vlakplaas, Vumbuka, Skoonplaas, Mkhancwa, Langaville Ext 8, Winnie Mandela, Tsakane Ext 10, Masechaba Soul City, Kuvukiland Ext 6, Msholoji, Villa Lisa, Zamani Merry Vlei, Marikana Ext 3, and Tsakane Ext 17. The EISM's objective is to realise improved and meaningful community participation in decision-making and project implementation processes at the municipal level, to enhance the delivery of basic services and development in these communities.

The communities concerned do not fully enjoy the constitutionally guaranteed rights, in particular socio-economic rights, such as access to water, sanitation, safe and reliable energy and housing, amongst others. The representations will focus on the basic services mentioned above. The representations will be based mainly on the contents from the *2025/26 - 2027/28 Annexure C - Capital Budget Per Ward* document. The EISM wishes to commend the fact that all wards were included in the allocation according to the *Finance Department: Draft Medium-Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework (MTREF) for 2025/26 to 2027/28 and the Amended 2022/23 to 2027/28 Integrated Development Plan (IDP)*.

EISM notes with pleasure the budgeted project "Implementation of Alternative Sanitation in Informal Settlements". This is a positive response to the EISM's longstanding call for dignified alternatives to the current chemical toilets as a form of sanitation facilities. We are also pleased to note that the CoE has budgeted R200 000 000 in total to be funded through the Informal Settlement Upgrading Partnership Grant (ISUPG) and Municipal Revenue for the 2025/26 financial year. However, the EISM seeks clarity on two issues in this regard. The line items indicates that "All Wards" are due to benefit meaning that this is a citywide project. We note that the CoE does not mean all communities would benefit within this specified timeframe. We would appreciate it if we could be referred to the relevant

point of reference containing details, including clarity on the type of technology and exact communities identified to benefit within the 2025/26 financial year. We suggest that in future, where there is mention of citywide or “all wards” projects in the IDP/Budget document, there should be a form of reference to provide access to important details such as the one we mentioned.

Similarly, we note with delight the budget for the project “Electrification of Informal Settlements” at R157 719 500 from the ISUPG. The same concern mentioned in the above paragraph applies in this regard. There is limited information about which informal settlement communities are earmarked for electrification, and from which wards. The same recommendation made in the preceding paragraph could remedy the situation in this regard as well. We welcome the budget line item “Installation of Solar Highmast Lights” citywide at R2 500 000 from Urban Settlement Development Grant (USDG).

More information or access to information on the settlements earmarked for electrification and their corresponding wards would provide the clarity sought on whether informal settlement communities are also included in the plan or not and which are to benefit. This would alleviate the unnecessary anxiety and frustration from those who require such services.

More information or a form of reference for details that would provide clarity as to whether informal settlement communities are also included in this plan would be appreciated. It would also provide information as to which settlements are earmarked to benefit. This would alleviate the unnecessary anxiety and frustration from those who require such services.

We note the “Supply of Bulk Containers” budget line item destined for “Multi wards” with scepticism. In 2022, the municipality distributed a number of shipping containers in various informal settlements without any coordination, support and monitoring of the project. The main concern was the lack of consultation with communities. For example, this was the case in the informal settlements in; *inter alia*, Tsakane Ext 10, Railway Ext 21, Langaville Ext 8.

While the project appeared to have good intentions at its conception, communities’ first-hand experience with its implementation left the impression that it was fruitless and wasteful expenditure. If the deficiency has not been remedied, we recommend the scrapping of this project and redirecting of the funds (R14 000 000 for 2025/26) to supplement some of the project we referred to above – i.e. **Implementation of Alternative Sanitation in Informal Settlements, Electrification of Informal Settlements or Installation of Solar Highmast Lights**. We note that the Supply of Bulk Containers are to be funded through the municipal revenue collected, something that is completely undesirable in this regard.

The EISM further calls for the allocation of sufficient funds for maintenance and repairs to ensure that infrastructure is in good working order to support quality service delivery, including water, sanitation, roads, and electricity, ensuring the well-being of residents. Proper maintenance and repair schedules will also ensure that infrastructure is maintained preventing costlier repairs due to neglect over time.

We note that according to the MTREF for the 2025/26 to 2027/28, “[i]n terms of Council’s social commitment to assist the poorer communities in the City, provision was also made for the supply of free basic services and social contributions to deserving households.” However, the CoE concedes that some indigent households exceed their consumption of free basic water probably because this is insufficient. The cost of excess consumption comes is estimated at close to R1000 000 000, per year. This require adequate intervention.

Quality water access is a priority for the EISM, and we call on the municipality to ensure that the level of Free Basic Water is raised from its 6 kilolitres per household per month to levels that align with World Health Organization and other international benchmarks. Registers of indigent households

should be revised for clearer and more accurate targeting. Policy revision needs to address whether free basic water can be provided to all. Funding needs to be made available for water projects including rainwater harvesting and water tanks to address sustainability issues, including importantly access.

Human settlement projects need to be appropriately funded and fast tracked. The R451 433 348 capital budget for 2025/26 is inadequate in addressing the current CoE housing backlog and contributing toward achieving the National Development Plan's objective to eradicate informal settlements within the stipulated timeframe.

We trust that our representation will receive your attention.