

Budget speech
Alderman Peter Sutton
MMC for Finance, City of Tshwane

19 May 2022

The City of Tshwane 2022/23 financial year budget is geared towards maintaining financial stability to advance service delivery and drive critical infrastructure investment

Greetings and acknowledgements

Honourable Speaker
The Executive Mayor of Tshwane
Honourable Chief Kekana and his entourage
Honourable Chief Mahlangu and his entourage
Chief Whip of Council
Members of the Mayoral Committee
Leaders of all political parties represented in Council
Honourable aldermen and councillors
Distinguished guests
The acting City Manager
Officials of the City of Tshwane
Members of the media
And, most importantly, our Tshwane residents

A warm welcome to you all and thank you for joining us today.

Introduction

Honourable Speaker, may I start by expressing my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to deliver the 2022/23 financial year Budget Speech before this chamber. It is indeed a great honour to outline our City's budget that is geared towards maintaining financial stability to advance service delivery and drive critical infrastructure investment.

This budget speech comes after the Executive Mayor, Alderman Randall Williams, delivered the State of the Capital Address where we accounted for the year that we have been in office and outlined our plans to take the City forward.

During his State of the Capital Address, the Executive Mayor implored us to always put the interests and needs of our residents at the forefront of our work in the City. With this in mind, we have tried our best to put together a balanced budget that prioritises service delivery for all Tshwane residents.

This budget also represents the collective strategic priorities of our multiparty coalition government. It remains important that we put our political differences aside and commit to our shared goals to strengthen service delivery in the City of Tshwane.

Honourable Speaker, our residents entrusted all of us as coalition partners with an important responsibility to drive quality service delivery in the City of Tshwane.

It is on this note that, in formulating the 2022/23 financial year budget, we were guided by our shared values and principles. Furthermore, we have aligned this budget with our ten strategic focus areas to develop Tshwane and fast-track service delivery:

1. Prioritise the electrical grid and water infrastructure
2. Provide stringent financial management and oversight
3. Be a business-friendly City that promotes employment and economic growth
4. Enhance City safety, security and emergency services
5. Maintain a clean and protected natural environment
6. Maintain and expand road infrastructure and public transportation
7. Be a caring City that supports the vulnerable and provides social relief
8. Modernise and digitise City processes
9. Provide a professional public service that drives accountability and transparency
10. Create a healthy and vibrant city

Honourable Speaker, while these strategic priorities look good on paper, actually delivering on these will take a lot of work with a sound and realistic budget, such as the one we are placing before this Council.

We are very much aware that the task before us is not any easy one. To govern a large metro like the City of Tshwane is not an easy task, especially when we have had to start by correcting the failures of previous administrations. However, our multiparty coalition government team is fit for purpose and fully committed to the cause.

Honourable Speaker, for us to truly take the City of Tshwane forward, we must start by acknowledging that our current service delivery levels are not where we would like them to be.

Having gone through the Integrated Development Plan and budget public consultation process, our residents have voiced their service delivery concerns and needs. We have also noticed a great deal of service delivery discontentment via our social media platforms. What this means, colleagues, is that we need to be frank about our service delivery shortfalls and work towards addressing them by improving service delivery levels to a point where residents can start seeing the difference. We can show all the improvement on paper we want, but if the perceptions of residents on the ground do not reflect increased service delivery, we have failed.

One of the major challenges we are facing is cable theft across all regions of Tshwane. This is a serious crime that negatively affects our ability to provide a consistent power supply to our residents. This issue also affects our already stretched budget as millions of rand is required to replace the stolen cables. And then one must consider the holistic cost of losses to Tshwane in terms of economic growth opportunities and job creation. Cable theft affects everyone, and we should unite as a City with stakeholders, residents and all spheres of government to fight this economic sabotage.

Honourable Speaker, for this urgency we allocated a budget of R10 million to our Cable Theft Unit to further capacitate them with technology and tools to assist them in the fight against cable theft. The organised crime syndicates involved in cable theft are highly resourced and it is high time our unit matches them.

Honourable Speaker, we must be realistic about what we can achieve. The 2022/23 budget was prepared during a difficult economic climate in the country. Therefore, in formulating this budget we have had to strike a fine balance between the needs of the residents and the financial stability of the City.

Much like the rest of the country, we are still recovering from the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to affect our revenue-collection levels. However, since coming into office, we have been able to improve collection rates to levels above 90%.

Our revenue collection is also affected by the pervasive culture of non-payment, which has led to the debtor's book increasing significantly to over R17 billion. To address this problematic culture of non-payment, we have had to take drastic action to collect revenue that is owed to the City.

This action includes the unprecedented #TshwaneYaTima revenue-collection campaign, where we disconnected services to defaulting clients. The campaign proved to be popular on social media and in the news, but the real success is that we were able to collect over R700 million in a short space of time. The campaign also sparked conversation throughout the country on the importance of revenue collection by municipalities. The #TshwaneYaTima campaign will continue indefinitely until our debtors book is under control. Over the next month, we will increase the scope of the campaign as well as our zero-tolerance approach to non-payment and electricity theft.

Honourable Speaker, we encounter electricity theft daily in this city and it is costing our revenue an estimated R470 million per year. This is R470 million taken away from service delivery by individuals and business owners in Tshwane through pure arrogance and entitlement. It will end now. We have increased the fines for illegal connections and electricity theft to R200 000 for individual or household accounts and R10 million for business accounts. In addition to these fines, we will also lay criminal charges and pursue recovery of lost income. We will establish a highly skilled multidisciplinary revenue-collection team for this purpose, to which we allocated R68 million in this budget.

And let me make it clear, stealing revenue from the City that must go to basic service delivery and support the poorest of the poor in Tshwane is a crime, and if you are an individual and business owner involved in electricity theft and tampering with prepaid meters, you should become very concerned.

But Speaker, to root out the snake head of this problem and to clean our system from those individuals who execute these illegal connections and tampering adjustments, we will announce an amnesty period of one month where those individuals and business owners guilty of electricity theft can apply for amnesty to be exempted from prosecution and fines under certain conditions. This amnesty period will be run in partnership with law enforcement agencies, and I strongly suggest that those guilty use this once-off opportunity before we start finding you.

More details will be announced on this in June 2022.

Furthermore, we have put plans in place to fast-track the installation of prepaid meters and to ensure that we apply appropriate debt-collection measures by implementing our Credit Control Policy. Prepaid meters have a number of long-term benefits to the City and an additional R57 million has been allocated for this project in the next financial year.

Honourable Speaker, as announced by the Executive Mayor during his State of the Capital Address, our debt-collection efforts and strict financial management measures are starting to show positive results. This is evidenced by the recent credit rating upgrade by GCR Ratings, which is one of the City's official credit rating agencies.

The agency upgraded our credit rating to CCC+(za) as an issuer of long-dated debt and to CA (za) as an issuer of short-term paper, giving the City a positive outlook in both cases. This is an important development as the financial sustainability of the City is non-negotiable. We must, therefore, continue to work towards restoring the financial health of the City.

Honourable Speaker, we are tabling before this Council a balanced budget. We strongly believe that this is a sound and well-balanced budget that prioritises core service delivery and critical infrastructure investment. As we work towards improving the financial stability of the City, it is important that we remain realistic and not make false, unfunded promises.

Honourable Speaker, the City is tabling a total budget of **R44,9 billion**, consisting of an operating budget of **R42,1 billion** and a capital infrastructure investment budget of **R2,8 billion**.

Rates and tariffs

We have prepared this budget with the current economic climate in mind and, therefore, our intention is to keep rates and tariff increases that are within our control as low as possible.

The City is proposing a **6%** increase for property rates and refuse removal will also increase by **6%**.

It is important to note that electricity and water tariffs are mainly influenced by our suppliers, which are Eskom and Rand Water respectively.

The National Energy Regulator of South Africa approved an average 7.47% electricity increase effective in April 2022. As such, the City is proposing a tariff increase of **7.47%** for electricity effective 1 July 2022 for domestic, commercial and industrial customers to cover the bulk costs and to sustain the delivery of the service.

Water tariffs will increase by **9%** and sanitation charges will also increase by **9%**.

We urge residents to always track and manage their water and electricity consumption in order to take control of their service bill.

As part of our efforts to support and offer social relief to our residents, all residential properties are not charged any property rates on the first **R150 000** of the value of the property.

Furthermore, registered indigent households pay no property rates and continue to benefit from various social relief packages offered by the City. Our total social relief value to registered indigent households amounts to over **R3.7 billion**.

Electricity and water infrastructure investment

Honourable Speaker, our multiparty coalition government has deliberately and strategically committed to prioritise critical infrastructure construction, maintenance and refurbishment. Investing in our infrastructure will enable Tshwane to unlock its economic growth potential.

Some of our electrical and water infrastructure has aged, becoming vulnerable to regular breakdowns. Addressing this means that we must make appropriate budgetary allocations to our Utility Services Department.

The department encompasses the Water and Sanitation Department, as well as the Energy and Electricity Department.

These are key departments and, as such, we have ensured that we allocate about **R1,2 billion** of the capital budget towards the prioritisation of the electrical grid and water infrastructure in Tshwane.

This allocation is approximately **42%** of the total 2022/23 capital budget for the City, proving that our coalition government backs its vision with real investment.

Water and sanitation

Honourable Speaker, we are committing significant resources to upgrade our water infrastructure to better serve all Tshwane residents. The Water and Sanitation Department has been allocated an operational budget of **R5,4 billion** for the 2022/23 financial year to effectively carry out its work.

Some of this work includes maintenance and then further additional capital upgrades at the Rooiwal Waste Water Treatment Works project. We are now finalising the first phase while also starting the groundwork for the second phase. Rooiwal Waste Water Treatment Works is a critically important aspect and our residents and farmers have suffered long enough. Our Executive Mayor has been clear that this ends now and that we will solve the Rooiwal matter once and for all. And under Cllr Johnston and his team, we have the capacity to do this.

We have allocated R40 million towards the ongoing Phase 1 of the project and we have also made provision for R2 million to go towards project designs for Phase 2.

Along with Rooiwal Waste Water Treatment Works, we are also upgrading the following infrastructure:

- Upgrade the existing plant at Ekangala Waste Water Treatment Works: R4 million

- Upgrade project to reinstate 40 Ml per day treatment capacity at Klipgat Waste Water Treatment Works: R78,8 million
- New sewer reticulation in Kudube Ext 5: R40 million
- New sewer reticulation in Ekangala Block A to F: R59 million
- Replace deficient sewers (citywide): R13 million

We are also directing significant resources to resolve water provision challenges in Tshwane to minimise water losses. As a metropolitan municipality, we have a responsibility to deal with water losses affecting our city. This work includes some of the following projects:

- Upgrade Bronkhorstbaai Water Treatment Plant: R35 million
- Upgrade Bronkhorstspuit Water Treatment Plant: R1 million (to commence with designs)
- Replace worn-out water pipes: R80 million
- Water conservation and demand management: R90 million

Honourable Speaker, allow me to move to our **Energy and Electricity Department**. For the 2022/23 financial year, we have allocated the department a handsome chunk of the pie totalling **R11,9 billion** for its operational budget.

This allocation demonstrates our commitment to address the electricity supply challenges we face in Tshwane. We have taken note of residents' concerns and frustrations with prolonged power outages. We are working to eliminate some of these challenges by investing in multiple substation refurbishment and upgrade projects. The following are a few of the broad investment areas for new infrastructure and infrastructure maintenance and refurbishment:

- Refurbish Wapadrand Substation: R35 million
- Refurbish Mooikloof Substation: R30 million
- Refurbish Kentron Substation: R30 million
- Refurbish Rosslyn Substation: R14 million
- Refurbish Pyramid Substation: R25 million

We are also continuing to fund the expansion of prepaid electricity meters and we have made a provision of **R57 million** towards the project. Rolling out prepaid meters is a key part of our strategy to improve revenue collection in the City.

Enhancing core basic service delivery

Honourable Speaker, it is important that our City's ratepayers must continue to see progressive service delivery. The City has an important responsibility to ensure that

we deliver everyday basic services, such as maintaining street lights, patching potholes, fixing water leaks and many other everyday matters.

Our Regional Operations and Coordination Department is tasked with delivering these core services to our residents. With an allocation of **R3.1 billion**, the department will work to ensure that the City maintains its everyday infrastructure. The budget will be spread out across all seven regions of Tshwane.

To highlight a few of the projects, **R261 million** has been allocated for electrical grid infrastructure repairs and maintenance, while our street light maintenance has been allocated **R88 million** to keep our city illuminated.

Maintaining our water infrastructure is vital in keeping our non-revenue water losses to a minimum. In this regard, water leak maintenance has been allocated **R113 million** to improve our management of and response to water leaks.

We have also allocated **R58 million** for sewer maintenance to address blockages and protect the City's sanitation system.

Moving to road maintenance, we have made an allocation of **R154 million**, which represents a budget increase of about **R17 million** from the previous financial year. Part of this allocation includes reactive maintenance to the value of **R62 million**, which looks to address potholes and road repairs.

Road resurfacing has been allocated **R7,5 million** to ensure that we keep our roads well maintained.

We have also allocated an amount of **R29,5 million** to repair sinkholes in affected areas across Tshwane.

Keeping our city clean is crucial to inspire confidence with visible service delivery. Therefore, we have allocated **R131 million** towards horticultural services and grass cutting at city parks, on sidewalks and pavements, and in open public spaces so that our city looks renewed and manicured.

An impressive **R25 million** has been allocated towards the rehabilitation of Centurion Lake. This allocation will go a long way to restore life in the polluted lake and prevent further risk of flooding during heavy rainfall. But importantly, to see economic growth, investment and job creation in the Centurion CBD. Our people need jobs, and we need to grow and create the setting for the private sector to create these jobs.

Honourable Speaker, the success of service delivery prioritisation lies in planning, planning, planning and then proper planning to make sure that we optimise efficiency and effectiveness in this area of spending. And we depend on our officials to make this happen.

Driving inclusive economic growth

Honourable Speaker, I mentioned earlier that we crafted this budget during a difficult economic climate with our country facing high levels of unemployment, continued low economic growth and increasing prices of basic goods.

However, despite these challenges, our City has a responsibility to push ahead and work towards unlocking possible economic opportunities while creating a viable environment for business and investment. The Economic Development and Spatial Planning Department is fully committed to charting a way forward in this regard.

The department has been allocated **R188 million** across the board to facilitate various strategic programmes to spark economic activity and potentially attract investment into the city.

An allocation of **R5,7 million** will go towards supporting small, medium and micro enterprises and local economic development initiatives.

The City is currently operating six business support centres in partnership with the Small Enterprise Development Agency to provide enterprise development for start-ups and existing small, medium and micro enterprises.

Furthermore, the Economic Development and Spatial Planning Department is planning to expand the business support centres' footprint by exploring ICT solutions to provide online enterprise development support to small, medium and micro enterprises, co-operatives and informal traders.

Moving to the informal trading sector, an allocation of **R7 million** has been provisioned to finalise Phase 2 of the Marabastad trading and marketing stalls. Cllr le Roux, this is a project close to your heart and I know you will make this happen. Thank you for the work you do!

Both informal trading allocations demonstrate our commitment to support and prioritise this important sector. We take informal traders seriously here in Tshwane, as the sector offers job opportunities to our residents and promotes a valuable spirit of entrepreneurship.

In addition to the funding, the City will seek to finalise a memorandum of agreement with Nissan SA and BMW to construct informal trading stalls in the Rosslyn area.

Another key local economic node is the Tshwane Fresh Produce Market, which plays an important role in food security and empowering the informal sector in Tshwane and beyond. To land our support, we have allocated **R8 million** towards the maintenance of the market. An additional allocation of **R10 million** will go towards upgrading and extending market facilities. Combined, the City is investing **R18 million** to support and upgrade the Tshwane Fresh Produce Market.

Driving innovation and technology

Honourable Speaker, our multiparty coalition government is committed to strengthening online customer services to fast-track service delivery. The Shared Services Department has been pushing to digitise a number of our client services in order to make it easier for our customers to interact with the City beyond normal working hours.

To carry out its duties, which include driving good governance, organisational development and customer service innovation, the department has been allocated a combined budget of **R1,5 billion**.

In line with the theme of this year's State of the Capital Address, *Building a data-driven City to fast-track service delivery*, the department will spend **R11 million** to acquire licences and develop a new customer relations management platform.

Another allocation of **R11 million** will go towards the completion of the e-health system, which will start allowing for the digitisation of municipal clinic services. We have also budgeted **R30 million** over three years for the full automation of built environment functions. This will allow for online applications for building plans, rezoning, modification of structures, appeal notices and many other functions.

Honourable Speaker, one of our priorities for the 2022/23 financial year is the provision of public Wi-Fi, especially to assist the youth to have internet access for educational and employment opportunities.

Admittedly, the availability of Wi-Fi services has been greatly affected by vandalism and theft over the past two years. To bring back this critical service, a budget of **R23 million** has been allocated to restore Wi-Fi connections at affected sites.

However, as we work to restore Wi-Fi services, we would like to appeal to our residents to work with the City to protect our infrastructure. Where communities witness theft and vandalism of critical infrastructure, they should call out this behaviour and report it to law enforcement authorities.

Cllr Wakelin, the work you and your department are doing is inspiring and commendable, and I know you will do this City and the residents of Tshwane proud with this budget. Thank you for your exceptional service.

An efficient, accessible and affordable transport service

Honourable Speaker, the Roads and Transport Department is moving at full speed to deliver a well-functioning and integrated transport network in Tshwane to enhance accessibility and ease movement for all.

Efficient roads and transport systems are crucial in facilitating economic growth and supporting our residents to connect easily to economic zones through affordable public transport services.

The department is moving ahead with plans to drive the development of an integrated rapid public transport network. An allocation of **R52 million** has been provisioned for the construction of a world-class intermodal facility in Wonderboom. The facility will integrate various transport modes, allowing commuters to have easy access to transport links, such as trains, rapid transit buses, minibus taxis and non-motorised transport facilities.

Another planned project is the construction of Line 2B in Lynnwood Road. The project comprises, among others, upgrading the road intersections along Atterbury and Lynnwood Road, which include upgrades to and the provision of associated services at the intersections of Lynnwood Road and Roper Street, Lynnwood and Atterbury Road, and Atterbury Road and Justice Mohammed Street. An allocation of **R120 million** has been made towards this project.

The department will also invest in developing public transport facilities. Most of these facilities, such as taxi ranks, lack basic amenities, such as reticulated potable water, sanitation, waste management systems and shelters. As part of efforts to address this, an amount of **R5,8 million** has been provisioned to complete repairs and maintenance at the transport facilities at Centurion Taxi Rank.

Another key deliverable for the department is the provision and maintenance of roads and storm water infrastructure. An allocation of **R143 million** will go towards roads and storm water infrastructure construction in Ga-Rankuwa, Mabopane, Soshanguve, Refilwe, Ekangala and Rayton.

Honourable Speaker, Cllr Selowa and her team are doing great work to chip away at this important and difficult portfolio. The execution of these budget items will make a difference and we know they will get it done.

Keeping our city clean and safeguarding the environment

Honourable Speaker, the Environment and Agriculture Management Department plays a crucial role in the City of Tshwane by providing efficient waste management services, protecting natural resources and supporting smallholder farmers.

To carry out its mandate, the department has been allocated about **R2 billion** in the budget for the 2022/23 financial year.

In order to support food security initiatives and job creation in the agricultural sector, an allocation of **R1,8 million** has been set aside. It will be used to support smallholder farmers in technical training and business skills. This will assist to enhance smallholder farmers' productivity and growth.

Another allocation of **R4,5 million** will go towards safeguarding our natural environment by removing invasive alien plants. This forms part of compliance with various pieces of national legislation to protect the natural environment. Moving to our efforts to fight environmental damage caused by littering and illegal dumping, an allocation of **R43 million** has been provisioned to support the Tswelopele Clean-up Campaign, along with the wide clearing of dumping sites across Tshwane.

A big chunk of the pie, **R702 million**, has been allocated towards household refuse removal and rudimentary services, including informal settlements.

We are also planning to expand our services to more than 10 000 new households in the upcoming financial year.

To send off our loved ones with dignity, the City's only crematorium in Pretoria West has been allocated **R500 000** for maintenance.

It is our goal to have the department use this budget effectively to enable the City to provide critical environmental and farming support services.

Alderman Mathebe, your leadership will see this happen. I have no doubt. I wish I could give you more budget now as I know it will be in very capable hands, but we will get there. Please see this budget executed.

Quality healthcare

Honourable Speaker, one of the main responsibilities of the Health Department is the provision of quality primary healthcare services to our residents in order to create safe and healthy communities. To achieve this, the Health Department has been allocated **R587 million** for operational purposes and **R49,5 million** for capital projects in the 2022/23 financial year.

An amount of **R97,9 million** has been allocated for municipal health services to inspect, monitor and resolve environmental challenges, and to prevent diseases of environmental origin, among other functions. This budget allocation will help the Municipal Health Services Section to ensure compliance with a wide variety of by-laws.

The City's 24 clinics have been collectively allocated **R251 million**. The clinics continue to function optimally despite the increased workload from COVID-19 vaccinations. Our clinics are inspected and rated on a regular basis to ensure that they maintain high-quality service standards. Furthermore, to ensure the continuous availability and accessibility of quality medicines, the Pharmaceutical Services Section has been allocated **R41,2 million**.

An allocation of **R31,7 million** has been provisioned to strengthen the fight against substance abuse within our communities. This is a matter that the City takes seriously, and we will continue to address this issue through our partnership with the University of Pretoria where we have established the Community Oriented Substance Abuse Programme.

Given that HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other sexually transmitted diseases remain a major health challenge in our communities, a budget allocation of **R21,8 million** has been provisioned to drive awareness campaigns throughout Tshwane.

In addition, a conditional HIV/AIDS grant of **R25 million** will be allocated by the Gauteng Provincial Department through publication in the *Government Gazette*.

Another **R29 million** has been allocated to employ contract workers to perform various health support services.

A key capital expenditure for the department is the ongoing construction of Lusaka Clinic in Mamelodi. An amount of **R49 million** has been allocated to finalise the project. This clinic will provide much-needed quality health services to the people of Mamelodi and surrounding areas.

Cllr Marx, you have impressed me and many with the skills and finesse you have brought to this department, and I am really glad we have you to see this budget implemented. You are doing excellent work and I know you and your department will continue to do so!

Supporting the vulnerable

Honourable Speaker, the Community and Social Development Services Department is committed to its mandate, which is to enhance the quality of life of Tshwane residents, especially the poor and marginalised.

The department has been allocated more than **R550 million** for the 2022/23 financial year to achieve its objectives.

Having taken note of the lasting negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the continued economic hardships facing many of our people, **R4,8 million** has been allocated to our food bank to provide relief to qualifying destitute families and non-governmental organisations.

Tshwane Food Bank annually supports more than **15 000 families** and **24 non-governmental organisations**, who in turn accommodate and assist homeless people with food relief. The food bank is also extended to help with relief efforts after disasters, such as floods and fires.

The department is also committed to assist in the fight against unemployment, with its own allocation of **R72,9 million** for the Expanded Public Works Programme.

Using our transparent and fair lottery selection system, the Expanded Public Works Programme will continue to provide work opportunities in order to fight poverty and give a sense of hope to the many unemployed residents of Tshwane.

The City also runs the **Public Employment Programme** with funds allocated by the National Treasury amounting to **R140 million**.

Through the Public Employment Programme, the City of Tshwane will continue to create short-term employment opportunities for residents. It is our hope that these recruitment interventions will make a difference in the lives of the many unemployed people in our city.

Cllr de Bruin, I cannot allude to just how difficult the work in your department is. Both professionally, but also emotionally, due to the environment you work in. I know your heart and I know you will make sure that this budget is appropriately spent and spent in full. Thank you for your hard work.

Creating a safe and caring city

Honourable Speaker, our Community Safety Cluster plays a key role in ensuring the security and well-being of our residents while providing quality emergency services to all.

It is important that residents feel safe and secure in the city they call home. Therefore, enhancing safety, security and emergency services forms part of our coalition government's top priorities.

The Community Safety Cluster comprises the Emergency Services Department and the Tshwane Metro Police Department.

Starting with the Emergency Services Department, the department is often rated as one of the top emergency services departments in South African local government.

To ensure that the Emergency Services Department continues to deliver on its mandate, which includes disaster management and speedily responding to fires and accidents, the department has been allocated **R986 million** for the 2022/23 financial year.

This operating budget will be used to render essential services, focusing on the following key deliverables:

- Performing fire suppression, rescue, emergency medical treatment, hazardous materials and related response services
- Performing regulatory fire safety duties throughout the city to ensure compliance
- Operating a 24/7 Emergency Communication Centre for emergency call taking, resource dispatching and major incident management
- Ensuring the optimal functioning of the Emergency Services Training Academy
- Coordinating the implementation of proactive disaster management prevention, mitigation and preparedness programmes
- Leading the coordination of risk management and safety at sport, recreational and major events

While the Emergency Services Department has not been allocated a capital project budget for the 2022/23 financial year, the department will continue to plan for the future construction of emergency services stations across Tshwane.

Moving to policing matters, the Tshwane Metro Police Department is tasked with three core functions, namely by-law enforcement, road policing and crime prevention. To adequately carry out these crucial safety and security duties, the department needs to be capacitated with a budget that supports this immense task.

For the 2022/23 financial year, the department has been allocated an operational budget of **R2,8 billion** and a capital project budget of **R10 million**. Some of the spending highlights will include a **R31,5 million** allocation to fight land invasion.

The issue of land invasion is a serious challenge in Tshwane and often hampers service delivery projects. It is important that we strengthen the City's response to land invasion to prevent this illegal action from taking any further root. As part of our prevention strategy, we are appointing service providers to patrol hotspot areas and demolish illegal structures.

The service providers work alongside the Tshwane Metro Police Department and other stakeholders that are part of our multidisciplinary team to combat illegal invasion and related contraventions, such as illegal electricity connections.

To boost current road law enforcement efforts, **R15 million** has been allocated for the procurement of 15 fixed speed cameras and other related equipment for speed law enforcement.

Our budget for the Community Safety Cluster demonstrates our commitment to ensure that we address security issues in the city while working alongside other law enforcement agencies to prevent and combat crime.

And, off course, let us remember the R10 million that will go towards the Cable Theft Unit!

Alderman Theunissen, your vision for the cluster is encouraging to all of us. I wish I could give you a blank check as I know you will execute it well, but we will get there. Thank you for your leadership and I know that we will see Tshwane become safer every day under you and your departments!

Funding sustainable housing solutions

Honourable Speaker, the Human Settlements Department budget for 2022/23 gives priority to providing dignified housing, swift relocations and quality services to our residents.

The department is planning on offering a combination of services to existing settlements while also investing in new developments and social housing projects to accommodate a large percentage of the growing housing demand.

Our 2022/23 financial year budget makes provision for **R411 million** towards capital projects and **R970 million** for operations expenditure.

A total of 145 informal settlements are confirmed to be developable based on high-level feasibility studies that were conducted. In line with the Informal Settlements Upgrading Strategy, the City has appointed town planners to proceed with the township establishment and approval of general plans for approximately 100 informal settlements in the next three years.

For this development to ensue, **R32,3 million** will be allocated towards township establishment during the 2022/23 financial year and **R13,5 million** will be allocated to relocate beneficiaries to permanent stands in the following areas:

- Portion 9 and 10 in Hammanskraal (2 400 stands)
- Stinkwater Ext 10 (900 stands)
- Proposed Kameeldrift Ext 37 and 42 (600 stands)
- De Wagensdrift (180 stands)
- Proposed Orchards Ext 110 (4 200 stands)
- Hammanskraal West Ext 4 (3 300 stands)

The City will further allocate **R37,5 million** for the provision of rudimentary sanitation services and **R340 million** for the provision of water services to informal settlements.

The department will also focus on providing water and sanitation and constructing roads and storm water, which will be prioritised in old townships, such as Mamelodi, Soshanguve, Mabopane, Ga-Rankuwa, Winterveld, Atteridgeville and many others.

Honourable Speaker, other budget highlights for the department include the following:

- **R129,8 million** has been provided for the reticulation of water provision to 2 504 serviced stands. This work includes providing bulk water pipelines and connection points to enable reticulation of services to the stands.
- **R106,7 million** will be allocated towards the provision of sewers for 701 serviced stands. Similar to water, the allocated budget will also cater for linked sewers to enable reticulation of the service to the stands.
- The City will further construct 24 km of roads and 6 km of storm water drainage systems in human settlement developments at a cost of **R148,1 million**.

Much like most metropolitan municipalities, the City of Tshwane is facing an increasing demand for housing that is close to and within the 30 km radius of economic nodes and opportunities.

To address this, an amount of **R233 million** has been allocated for the development of affordable rental social housing units through Housing Company Tshwane.

The City's social housing projects offer mixed units for young families and urban economically active residents.

The target group is Tshwane residents who do not qualify for government-sponsored housing nor earn enough to qualify for home loans (earning between R1 500 and R15 000 per month) – this is what is referred to as the missing middle group.

The City is also working with the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements to address the backlog on the National Housing Needs Register, which is currently at 210 000 for Tshwane. **R50,8 million** from the Human Settlements Development Grant will be used to develop more low-cost housing units.

Honourable Speaker, our human settlements budget allocation and planned programmes truly demonstrate the City's commitment to provide dignified housing and services to our people.

Cllr Tau, I have known you for a long time. You have a particular set of skills when it comes to your work in your department, and your excellent and hard work is noted and appreciated. Thank you for your efforts!

Conclusion

As I conclude, Honourable speaker, earlier I mentioned that the task before us is not an easy one. Indeed, we have a challenging journey ahead. However, as elected

public representatives, we must work together to restore the hope of Tshwane residents through quality service delivery guided by this budget.

We must always keep in mind that a significant percentage of the budget presented here today comes from ratepayers. These are residents who dutifully pay their municipal accounts, and so we have a responsibility to ensure that we thank them by delivering on our commitments.

This budget, if executed effectively, will make a difference in the lives of people across the city. To do this we need an administration that is run efficiently. Thus, I want to appeal to the leadership of the administration to ensure that they properly plan and thoroughly execute the projects we have identified.

We owe it to the public to whom we are accountable as they have a right to oversee our progress. Please work on this. We have now had the opportunity to hear the State of the Capital Address which has been followed by how it will be funded in this Budget Speech. This means that we must now roll up our sleeves and get to work.

Lastly, Honourable Speaker, I want to acknowledge the work of our Executive Mayor, Alderman Randall Williams, and all the MMCs present as we have workshopped the budget extensively.

The leadership and guidance from the political executive create an environment where things can happen and where there are no limits to what can be done.

I thank you, Speaker!

