

**WARD 6 COUNCILLOR SUBMISSION TO THE  
INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF THE MALUTI-A-  
PHOFUNG MUNICIPALITY 2022/2027.**

FROM: Cllr Eleanor Quinta, Ward Councillor

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The following issues must be addressed in the budget:

**BILLING SYSTEM:**

1. The billing system for Maluti-a-Phofung must first and foremost be upgraded. This system upgrade will greatly improve revenue collection, which is desperately needed for this failing municipality. Without a proper billing system in place, and residents not receiving accounts, there is no income derived from residents.

**ELECTRICITY:**

1. All overhead copper electric cables must be replaced with bundle conductor cables. This will reduce cable theft in Harrismith as well as ensure a more stable electrical supply to residents.
2. Security must be placed on a permanent basis at all major substations to prevent vandalism.
3. Insurance must be paid for major transformers, this way, if there is a faulty transformer, it can easily and effortlessly be replaced.
4. Surge protectors (or similar devices) must be installed in order to protect vulnerable electrical equipment from being damaged.
5. A tactical team must be appointed to deal with and prevent the connection of numerous illegal connections in Maluti-a-Phofung.

6. The Harrismith Cherry Picker must be repaired in order to alleviate the pressure on the Phuthaditjhaba Cherry Picker having to travel to Harrismith every time it is needed.
7. The Electrical Dept urgently needs stock, tools and equipment to be able to properly service all electrical issues. The Harrismith workshop needs refurbishment and needs to be stocked.
8. The Harrismith Electrical Dept needs an additional functioning Cherry Picker/Crane Truck hybrid. One vehicle is simply not enough, and more vehicles are needed to attend to all faults in Ward 6 timeously.
9. Electrical infrastructure needs to be upgraded and in various places complete rehabilitation is required.
10. The White Houses in Schoomplaas is in desperate need of electricity. The houses were barely completed before the contractor left the site.

#### **WATER:**

1. Generators is urgently needed at all major water treatment plants. It is a basic human right, loadshedding is worsening by the week and blaming loadshedding can no longer be an excuse.
2. All water leaks must be repaired and some cases complete rehabilitation of water infrastructure is required, as it is causing major loss of our expensive purified water.
3. Boreholes must be installed for residents living in rural areas, simply placing a Jojo Tank on the property is not enough. These tanks have a short life span and must be filled on a regular basis.
4. The Water Treatment Plant that was intended to supply Kings Hill residents with water, must be rehabilitated and connected. This will also relieve the pressure on the current Water Treatment Plant and can also act as a backup.
5. Tshiame Water supply must be expanded to supply residents full time with water, at the moment residents only receive water at irregular intervals.
6. Bulk water meters need replacement in order to accurately produce figures as far as water supply and consumption is concerned.
7. This department is also in urgent need of functional vehicles, rods, materials, sewer tools and PPE for the staff.
8. This department also needs a TLB and Jetting Machine. The staff of this department is trained to use a Jetting Machine, and it is unacceptable that

a contractor must be paid to do work that the municipality is capable of doing if only they had the correct equipment.

### **SEWAGE and REFUSE REMOVAL:**

1. The Wilger, Tshiamo C and Tshiamo B Waste Water Treatment Plants in Ward 6, must be fixed and upgraded, as it is poisoning residents and the environment.
2. The Schoomplaas Waste Water Treatment Plant must be fixed, as it is flowing directly into the Wilger River, therefore contaminating the Vaal River. Residents in Schoomplaas are living with raw sewage running past their houses. This is a serious concern and needs to be addressed.
3. The sewage water dam in Tshiamo needs to be addressed, the sewage is running down the street and forming a dam next to the main road. This is a major health hazard for residents.
4. Regular scheduled refuse removal must be implemented and maintained.
5. The sewage issue coming from Thebe Hospital and flowing into the Platberg Stadium property needs serious addressing. Raw sewage cannot continue to flow between school and sport facilities used by school children.
6. Cleaning of street and open spaces must be maintained, in order to clean the Greater Harrismith area.
7. The Taxi Rank in Bester street, must be cleaned regularly, and bins and public toilets must be installed for commuters to use.
8. Simply employing EPWP participants is not enough. The participants need tools, gloves and refuse bags in order to do their work. We cannot spend money on salaries for participants not to work. They can help a great deal with clearing refuse in Maluti-a-Phofung.

### **ROADS:**

1. Proper rehabilitation must be budgeted and planned for the roads in Greater Harrismith. Simply patching potholes is no longer serving its purpose.
2. Farm roads and bridges need to be graded and maintained as they are in an appalling condition. Mobile clinics, ambulances and school transport simply cannot drive on these roads in order to fulfil their duties.

3. Storm water drains must be cleaned on a regular basis to ensure the flow of water away from the tar. Without this, standing water causes further damage to the tar.
4. Roads Dept needs the necessary tools, equipment and stock in order to their work properly. This would include Excavator, grader, tipper truck and a TLB.
5. Roads Dept is also in desperate need for protective gear in order to clear storm water drains. This department has no gumboots, gloves etc.

### **SAFETY:**

1. Streetlights and Floodlights must be repaired or replaced. These lights serve as a security measure against crime. There are many solar options available as an alternative that is fairly cheap to install and has no running costs involved. The solar option will also then mean that there will be light during load shedding or power outages.
2. Traffic lights need to be maintained or replaced, as this is becoming an increasing concern in Harrismith.
3. The Maluti-a-Phofung Traffic Department staff base needs to be expanded in order to cater to the growing population. Two traffic officers is simply not sufficient to control traffic in the Greater Harrismith area.
4. The Fire Brigade must be rehabilitated and equipped with a functional fire engine to deal with fires in the Greater Harrismith Area. The personnel must be trained and equipped. The fire engine must have water in the tanker at all times, therefore a supervisor must manage the department properly.
5. The graveyard is becoming a dangerous, and unsafe for mourning families to attend to loved ones graves. The land is not being maintained, long grass is seen everywhere, and the fence surrounding the graveyard is being carried away bit by bit. There is urgent intervention needed.

### **BUILDINGS:**

1. Dilapidated buildings on abandoned yards must be demolished, these buildings only serve as hiding ground for thieves and becomes a hive of drug activities at night.
2. The Harrismith Town Hall must be renovated in line with its status as a Heritage Building. This building is also the only community hall in Ward

6. Security needs to be placed at this Heritage Site, as homeless persons have now moved in into the Harrismith Town Hall.
3. The Building and Planning Department must be efficiently capacitated. Without this department sufficiently being able to fulfil its duties has a ripple effect on infrastructure. With buildings just being built without proper planning and permission has dire consequences and the Infrastructure Department are unable to fulfill their duties to community.
4. The Old Club house is registered as a building of historical significance. This building is another famous spot for thieves hiding from police and security companies, as well as hang out place for local drug addicts. This building needs to be fixed or sold to a REGISTERED Community Organisation for use by the community of Ward 6.

### **TREES AND PARKS:**

1. Cutting of trees is essential to supply of a stable electricity connection in Harrismith. The trees often short the electricity in storms and are also often used by thieves to hide in the thick branches. This department is doing nothing to assist residents.
2. Sidewalks, open spaces and sports grounds must be maintained and grass cut to ensure health safety as these become breeding grounds for rodents and other unsavoury creatures.
3. It has been confirmed that the Harrismith Public Swimming Pool is in fact the property of Maluti-a-Phofung municipality, therefore urgent work needs to take place on the property. It is a health hazard, it is a safety hazard and an unfortunate drowning is likely to place. It needs to be cleaned, cleared and the water in the pool needs to be drained so as to prevent drowning.

### **INDIGENT REGISTER:**

1. The indigent register must be drawn up and implemented, as this would greatly assist poor residents to receive free basic services.

### **HEALTH:**

1. Sufficient budgeting or pressure on the Department of Health must be placed in order to ensure improvement in the health conditions of the residents of Ward 6. The mobile clinic needs to be more frequently

available and visible. Harrismith Community Clinic as well as Thebe Hospital needs more staff. The current staff are simply not enough to serve this large community efficiently.

2. There must be better control of farm animals grazing in residential areas in Harrismith. Uncontrolled animals not only pose as a health hazard to the community, but is also a safety issue, due to the danger that certain animals pose ie, pigs.

#### **SIGNAGE:**

1. Signs with street names need to be maintained or replaced, it not only serves as an information board, but is also a necessity in case of an emergency, in order for ambulances, fire engines and police to better reach their destination.

#### **GENERAL:**

1. An urgent application needs to be done for a fuel account in Harrismith, or the current fuel account needs to be paid up to date. It is ridiculous that municipal vehicles working in Harrismith and surroundings, must travel to Phuthaditjhaba to fill up with fuel. The travel expense to fill up with fuel every time must be astronomical and it is completely unacceptable to waste fuel like that.

This is my submission to the IDP as a Ward Councillor, based on engagements with the community and complaints received.



Cllr Eleanor Quinta

Date: 5 March 2023