



BITOU BULLETIN

Volume 9: April 2024

Bitou Executive Mayor tables a pro-poor draft budget focused on ailing infrastructure

At a special council sitting on Thursday, 28 March 2024, Bitou Executive Mayor, Councillor Claude Terblanche, tabled the draft budget that has a sharp focus on Bitou's poorest communities and infrastructure development.

For the next three financial years, Bitou Municipality has budgeted over R400 million in capital expenditure. This is because the municipality is eager to enhance its service delivery offering to communities and uplift the poorest of the poor. For this financial year just under R300m is budgeted for electricity services, R66m for water services, and R55m for wastewater management services. This is while roads and stormwater are set to receive R35m and solid wastewater management is allocated R65m for the 2024/2025 financial year.

General services which include social services, sports and recreation, public safety, and housing have been allocated just under R187m. All these speak directly to the service delivery departments and account for 71.3 per cent of the total annual budget.

Further, the infrastructure development which includes the overhaul of the vehicle fleet is budgeted at over R120m for the 2024/ 2025 financial year.

For sports recreation, community, and social projects a sum of R3,8 million has been allocated while the remainder of the capital budget will be used for back-up power systems, machinery, and computers. This will enable the municipality to function smoothly irrespective of power outages and/ or loadshedding.

In a true spirit of being the best together, the public is urged to participate in the budget and IDP public participation processes which are in progress.

New EPWP Intake to boost service delivery

Bitou Municipality took a bold step to increase the current Extended Public Works Program (EPWP) by an additional 240 employees. This decision comes in the aftermath of recent walkabouts in the different communities as well as from reports of various public participation engagements over the past year. These walkabouts highlighted serious service delivery challenges that our communities face and various interventions are needed to deal with these

The 240 workers will be spread across service delivery departments for the next two months in order to boost productivity and the service delivery offered by the municipality.

This is as the incumbent council leadership zoomed into the EPWP program as part of their first 100 days in office and identified the needs of every department. Executive Mayor, Claude Terblanche, says that when the current coalition partners took office on 2 February 2024, they took deliberate decisions to accelerate service delivery to all communities and this is one of those interventions.

The induction of the EPWPs was done on Wednesday, 10 April 2024, and Executive Mayor Terblanche was accompanied by the Speaker of Council Sandiso Gcabayi, Councillors Nokuthula Seti, Heinright Mitchell, and Samkele Aluncedo Lamla Mangxaba,

Councillor Gcabayi encouraged the beneficiaries to make use of this opportunity that they have been granted to serve the communities. By doing your job of serving the communities excellently you may also develop your own profile and may open doors for yourself. Further Councillor Terblanche spoke directly to the managers and administrators saying that this new EPWP intake is to boost working capacity and not replace permanent staff.

Councillor Mitchell stated that he also benefited from the EPWP and worked hard to make the best for the community. "Please do not take this opportunity lightly as it can improve your own personal growth." Councillor Mitchell said. "Please do not take this opportunity lightly because we place our trust in you to change the lives of our people and you must respect your work, your colleagues and the management," added Councillor Seti.

Councillor Mangxaba spoke about the commitment of council to change the living conditions of the people. "We are here to improve the living conditions of the people and in order to do that we will remove the bottlenecks that prevent people from getting the service delivery that they deserve." Mangxaba concluded.



Approved draft budget and draft IDP Plan

"To be the best together"

Venue	Date	Time
WARD 1 Kurland Community Hall	30 April	18:00
WARD 1 Witterdrift Community Hall	16 April	18:00
WARD 2 Piesang Community Hall	2 May	17:30
WARD 3 Bicycle shed Community Hall	11 April	18:00
WARD 4 New Horizons Community Hall	10 April	18:00
WARD 5 Kwanokuthula Community Hall	24 April	18:00
WARD 6 Kwanokuthula Community Hall	23 April	18:00
WARD 7 Kranshoek Community Hall	17 April	18:00
WARD 7 Harkerville Community Hall	18 April	18:00



In pictures :



The Executive Mayor, Councillor Claude Terblanche, led a delegation made up of councillors, the Municipal Manager, Dr. Ralph Links, Head of Departments, and other senior officials of Bitou Municipality on a walkabout in all the wards. The walkabouts were service delivery-focused, and from this, various service delivery interventions were identified. The walkabouts were listed as part of the Council’s First 100 Days in Office program.



The distribution of wheelie bins is also part of the 100 days program of Bitou Council. This program kicked off in Ward 6 in March 2024. The program has since also been done in Ward 3 and Ward 5.



Day to day service delivery is still ongoing. Customers are encouraged to report any service delivery complaint and queries as well as service delivery requests through the Bitou Customer care for immediate action.



CUSTOMER CARE

044 5013174/5

CustomerCare@plett.gov.za

TOLL FREE 0800212797

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1. Download the Collab Citizen app from your app store.
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3. After adding Bitou Municipality as a channel, customize preferences as a property owner, tenant, or tourist to subscribe to the newsfeed and receive information.

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