

NDLAMBE MUNICIPALITY

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER



Date: 30 June 2026

To: Residents of Ndlambe Local Municipality

Subject: Municipal Response to Public Comments Received on the Draft Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Budget 2026/27

Dear Residents,

The Ndlambe Local Municipality wishes to thank all residents, organisations and stakeholders who participated in the 2026/27 Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Budget public participation process. The comments received were carefully considered by Council during the approval of the Final IDP and Budget on 29 May 2026. The following resolutions and commitments reflect the Municipality's response to the issues raised by the community and its commitment to improved governance, financial sustainability, and service delivery.

1. Tariffs, Affordability and Cost Containment

The Municipality confirms that:

- Tariff increases remain unavoidable in order to ensure the continued sustainability of essential municipal services.
- Special tariff support arrangements remain available to qualifying indigent households and residents who meet the approved criteria.
- The Municipality's existing Cost Containment Policy will continue to be strictly implemented.
- Property rates, taxes and levies will not be utilised to subsidise non-core functions or mandates that constitutionally belong to other spheres of government.
- Municipal funding sources will be ring-fenced and utilised only for their designated and legally prescribed purposes.

Revenue Enhancement and Funding Optimisation

- The Municipality will continue to strengthen the accuracy of its indigent register through ongoing registration and verification of qualifying households.

An accurate indigent register assists the Municipality in securing equitable share allocations that appropriately reflect the needs of its communities.

- The Municipality will continue to pursue all lawful opportunities to maximise grant funding and external financial support for service delivery.

2. Additions to Chapter 4 of the Final IDP 2026/27

The following projects and interventions have been incorporated into Chapter 4 of the Final Ndlambe IDP 2026/27:

- Assessment of the condition of all municipal buildings.
- Assessment of the condition, age, and structural integrity of all core municipal infrastructure relating to water, sanitation, stormwater, electricity, and tourism infrastructure.
- Development of a comprehensive Municipal Asset Management Plan.
- Development of an infrastructure implementation prioritisation framework and criteria.

These initiatives will also be incorporated into the Final Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) 2026/27 and reflected within the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and scorecards of the relevant Directorates.

2.1 The Municipality will, as far as reasonably possible:

- Reduce its dependence on external consultants.
- Strengthen institutional knowledge.
- Build internal technical capacity.

2.2 The Municipality will review:

- Funding allocated to the maintenance of fire hydrants during the next Budget Adjustment process (scheduled for December 2026); and
- Funding allocated to stormwater maintenance during the same budget adjustment process.

2.3 Where appropriate and practical, labour-intensive construction and maintenance methods will be incorporated into tender specifications in order to promote local employment opportunities and community economic participation.

2.4 With effect from **1 July 2026**, all municipal tender specifications and Terms of Reference will include provisions for:

- Internal capacity building.

- Skills transfer.
 - Retention of institutional memory; and
 - Reduction of long-term dependence on external consultants.
- 2.5 The Municipality will provide residents with a **Service Delivery Implementation Booklet** by the **2nd week of July 2026**, clearly indicating:
- Planned service delivery improvements.
 - The locations where improvements will occur; and
 - How progress will be measured and reported.

3. Financial Governance and Accountability

- 3.1 The Municipality confirms that property rates, tariffs, levies, and service charges will be utilised solely for their intended purposes and safeguarded against inappropriate diversion towards non-core expenditure.
- 3.2 The Municipality will improve transparency regarding:
- Municipal expenditure patterns.
 - Non-essential expenditure.
 - Travel and accommodation.
 - Conferences and workshops.
 - Entertainment and ceremonial expenditure.
 - Donations and sponsorships.
- 3.3 By or before **10 July 2026**, all officials will be notified to formally acknowledge and sign the **Financial Accountability Declaration** contained in the Financial Stabilisation Plan included in Chapter 7 of the Final IDP 2026/27.
- 3.3 The Financial Stabilisation Plan will be implemented by or before **July 2026** as a standing institutional reform mechanism.
- 3.4 The Municipality will ensure that all officials are fully aware of the implications of breaching the:
- Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA).
 - National Treasury Circulars.
 - Cost containment measures; and

- Other applicable financial governance provisions.
- 3.5 The Tier Prioritisation Framework adopted by Council will be further strengthened during the 2027/28 IDP Review process through the introduction of additional screening and stress-testing criteria to ensure that future projects and expenditure undergo a more rigorous sustainability and affordability assessment.
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4. Governance, Contracts and Transparency

The Municipality currently maintains a comprehensive internal register of:

- Contracts.
 - Service Level Agreements (SLAs).
 - Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs).
 - Terms of Reference.
 - Scopes of Work.
 - Existing agreements.
 - Agreements currently under negotiation; and
 - Anticipated agreements extending to 2028.
- 4.1 The Municipality will strengthen control measures and improve transparency regarding contractual obligations, financial commitments, and outsourced services.
- 4.2 Directorate scorecards and the performance management system will continue to promote fiscal discipline and financial accountability across the Municipality. In addition to the inherent financial management responsibilities of senior managers, performance scorecards include specific Key Performance Indicators for monitoring, amongst others:
- Procurement deviations.
 - Implementation of the Financial Stabilisation Plan.
 - Non-essential expenditure.
 - Expenditure on non-core functions.
 - Compliance with approved cost containment measures.

These indicators are intended to strengthen financial oversight, reinforce accountability, and support the responsible management of public resources.

5. Mandates and Institutional Focus

5.1 The Municipality will review its Local Economic Development (LED) Strategy and related policies, together with organised stakeholders and business structures, to strengthen strategic alignment, sustainability, and long-term economic impact.

5.2 Project proposals submitted by the Black Business Forum and the Black Business Chamber will be assessed alongside the existing Local Economic Development (LED) projects reflected in Chapter 4 of the Final IDP.

In addition, the Municipality has revised its Supply Chain Management Policy to strengthen opportunities for local economic participation and to address matters raised by local business stakeholders. The diligent and consistent implementation of the revised SCM Policy will be critical to achieving these objectives.

5.3 The Municipality will actively prepare and submit business plans to relevant sector departments and funding institutions to secure external funding for projects and activities that fall outside the Municipality's constitutional mandate, including:

- Schools (Department of Basic Education).
- Agricultural projects (Department of Agriculture).
- Festivals and special events.
- Arts, culture, and heritage programmes.
- Sports and recreational tournaments; and
- Other sector-specific initiatives.

However, where projects or initiatives falling outside the Municipality's core mandate are able to demonstrate significant and measurable economic benefits for the Ndlambe area, the Municipality may give reasonable consideration to supporting such initiatives, provided that this does not compromise its constitutional responsibilities, financial sustainability, or core municipal development priorities.

5.4 With effect from **10 July 2026**, where community support initiatives fall outside the Municipality's core mandate, the Municipality's role will primarily be one of:

- Facilitation.
- Coordination.
- Community mobilisation.
- Provision of venues.
- Basic logistical support; and
- Stakeholder collaboration.

The Municipality intends to progressively transition away from directly funding sector projects towards facilitating, coordinating, and enabling sector-led development initiatives.

This approach recognises that communities are often affected by delays or limited responsiveness from other spheres of government in fulfilling their respective responsibilities. While the Municipality will continue to engage and advocate on behalf of affected communities, it remains necessary to balance these realities against the Municipality's own constitutional mandate, available resources, and core service delivery obligations.

6. Spatial Planning, Infrastructure Capacity and Development

6.1 All future municipal projects and expenditure proposals will be assessed within the context of the approved Spatial Development Framework (SDF) and identified nodal development principles.

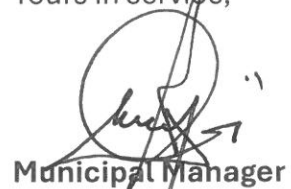
6.2 Projects that cannot reasonably demonstrate alignment with strategic spatial priorities will require further motivation and consideration before approval.

All future development proposals and municipal projects will be evaluated against available:

- Water supply capacity.
- Electricity supply capacity.
- Sanitation infrastructure capacity.
- Long-term infrastructure sustainability; and
- Service delivery implications.

- 6.3 The Municipality will promote the sustainable expansion of towns and settlements only where sufficient infrastructure capacity exists and where long-term service delivery planning supports such growth.

Yours in service,



Municipal Manager

Advocate R Dumezweni