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To: [swartlandmunicipality@gmail.com](mailto:swartlandmunicipality@gmail.com)

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Subject: Swartland Municipality BOLD BUDGET FOR SWARTLAND: INVESTING IN A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

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Statement

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## BOLD BUDGET FOR SWARTLAND: INVESTING IN A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

In a time when reassurance and foresight are critically important, Executive Mayor Harold Cleophas presented Swartland Municipality's Final Budget on 29 May 2025 for 2025/2026, pledging responsible financial stewardship, strategic infrastructure renewal, and continued protection for the municipality's most vulnerable households.

Facing a growing population, ageing infrastructure, and rising service demands, Swartland Municipality has committed to an ambitious, yet financially sustainable, capital budget of R829 million over the next three years. This investment is designed to secure long-term service delivery while easing the daily stressors that residents face, particularly during periods of economic pressure.

"This budget is not about numbers; it's about the lived experiences of people in Abbotsdale, Darling, Moorreesburg, Riverlands, Chatsworth, the Riebeek Valley, and across the entire Swartland," Mayor Cleophas said. "We are acting now to ensure the services our children will need tomorrow do not collapse under the weight of inaction today."

The approved multi-year budget includes R829 million in planned capital spending over the next three years, of which the major investments are summarised below:

- R91.5 million: Upgrading gravel roads across the region.
- R51 million: Resealing of roads to improve mobility and access in under-developed areas.
- R59 million: Development of the new cell at the Highlands Landfill, plus R9.6 million for the security wall.
- R210 million: Bulk electricity infrastructure.
- R634 million: Housing delivery infrastructure and top structures, funded by the Department of Infrastructure.

These long-term investments are funded through a mix of capital replacement reserves and national and provincial grants (MIG, WSIG, INEP, human settlements).

To finance sustainable service delivery while remaining sensitive to economic realities faced by our residents, the following tariff increases will apply from 1 July 2025:

- Electricity: Increase of 12.72% ( while Eskom charges the municipality around 15.28%).
- Water: Increase of 5.6% (0–20 kl), and 4.9% (above 20 kl).
- Refuse Removal: Increase of 11%.
- Sewerage: Increase of 5.9%.
- Property Rates: Increase of 4.9% (residential), and 6.9% (business/state).

Understanding that rising costs can be deeply unsettling, especially to those already struggling, Mayor Cleophas reaffirmed his ongoing commitment to assist registered indigent households. These households will continue to receive:

- 6 kl of water free per month, including full network charge coverage.
- Free basic electricity (FBE), as per national guidelines.
- Full subsidies on refuse and sewerage services.
- Property rates subsidised up to R120,000 or R300,000 for qualifying indigent owners.
- An increased income threshold for qualifying indigent households: from R4,415.00 to R4,660.00.

“No resident should fear being left behind,” Mayor Cleophas emphasised. “Our indigent policy ensures that even in difficult times, the most vulnerable are protected with dignity.”

The final budget reflects some changes made in response to public input received during April 2025. Adjustments were made to guard against unaffordability for the most vulnerable, and to enhance clarity around property rebates and service charges.

This budget supports the recently adopted 2024/2025 Integrated Development Plan (IDP), which focuses on infrastructure-led growth, housing, safety, and social upliftment across all communities. Swartland is looking towards the future, building a place where we can all live our dreams.

Residents can view the full budget, tariff schedules, and updated policies at [www.swartland.org.za](http://www.swartland.org.za), or contact the Financial Services Directorate at 022 487 9400.

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**Swartland forward-thinking 2040 – where people can live their dreams!**

