

Statement by the Executive Mayor of Cape Town, Alderman Patricia de Lille

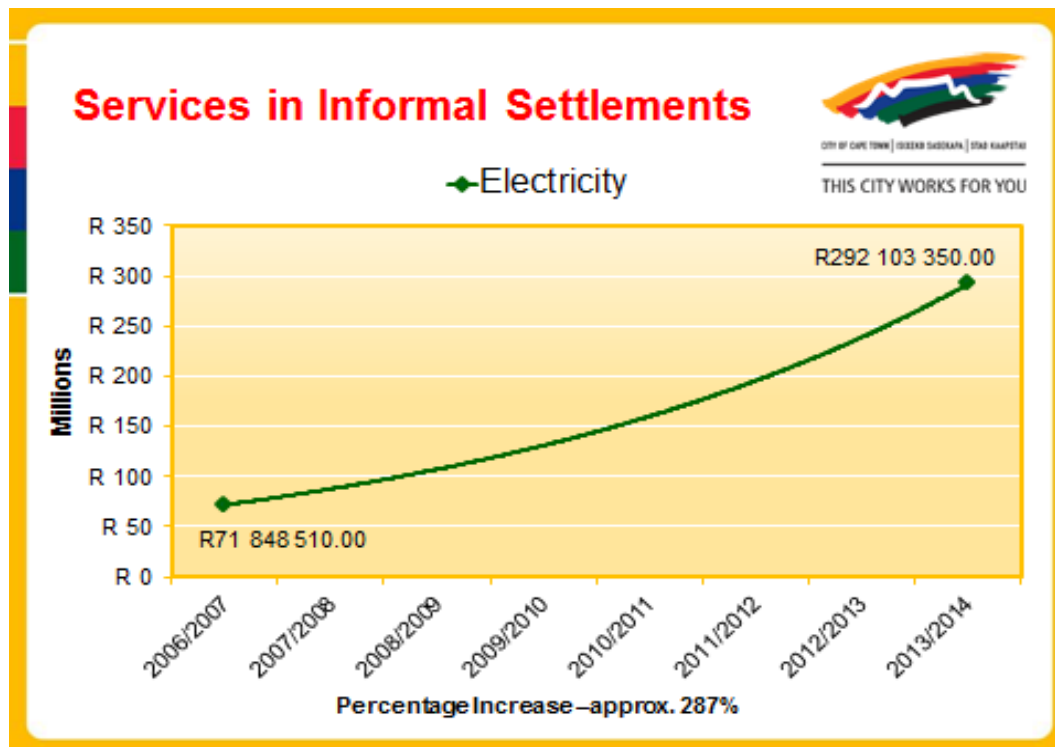
City invests in improving the lives of residents in informal settlements

As part of our commitment to redress, and to creating a Caring and Inclusive City, the City of Cape Town has prioritised a massive allocation of resources to improve living conditions in informal settlements, specifically in the provision of refuse removal and area cleaning, water, sanitation and electricity.

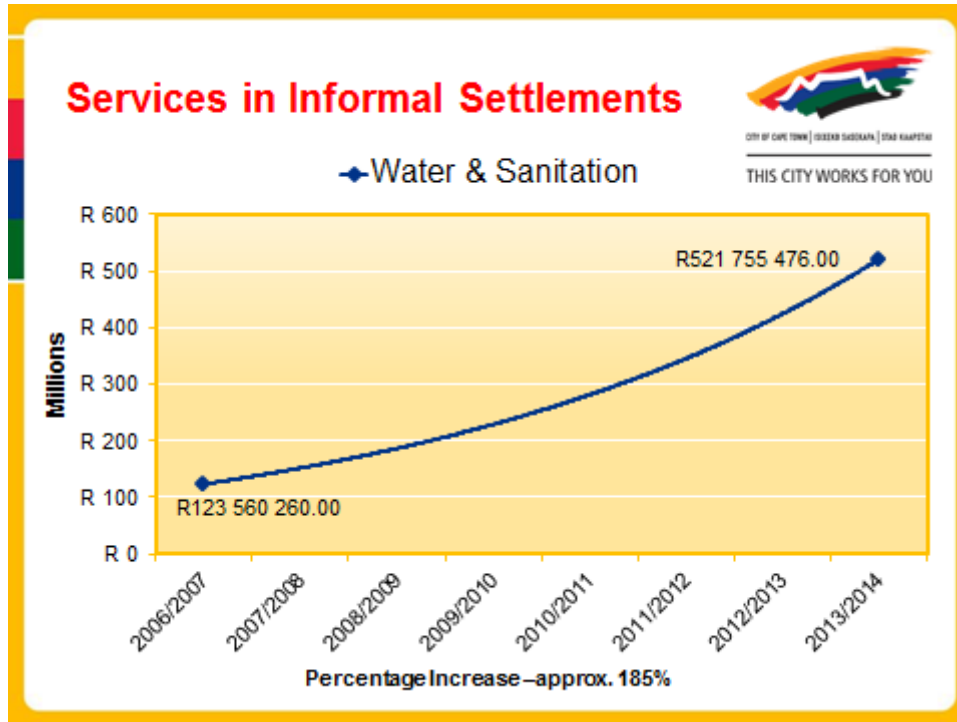
This is part of our broader commitment to pro-poor spending and investment in infrastructure. The City has consistently and significantly increased its budget for the provision of services to informal settlements since 2006. As a result, we have made substantial headway in our efforts to provide services to those residents who live in informal dwellings.

This commitment to service provision is demonstrated in our budget breakdowns over the past 6 financial years.

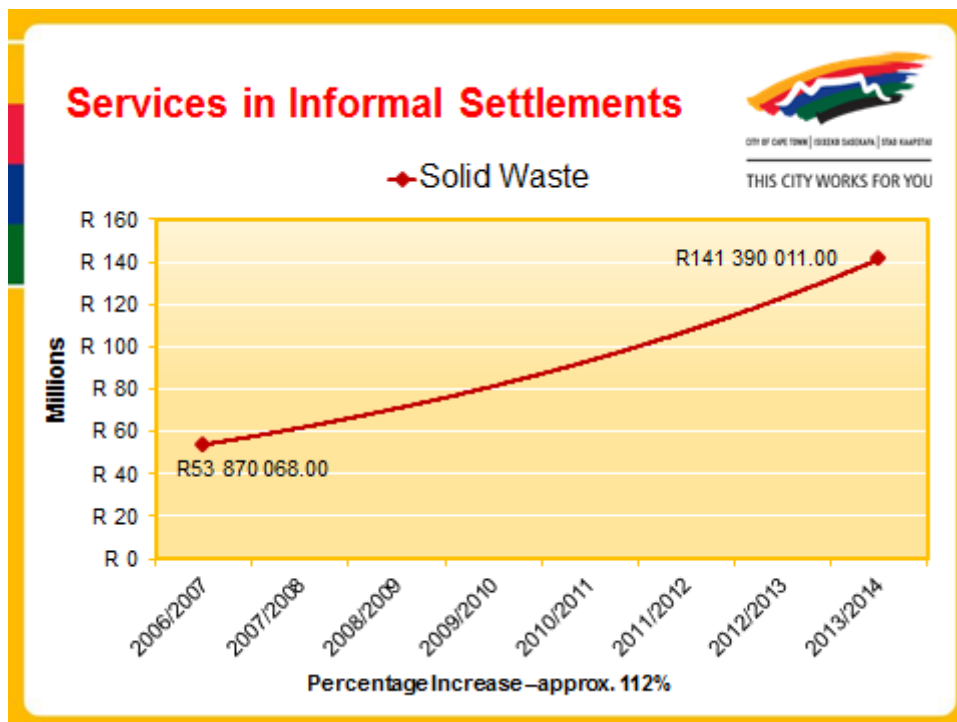
In terms of electricity provision, since 2006/07 we have increased our budget by approximately 287%. This year, an estimated budget of R292mil has been budgeted for electricity provision to informal settlements.



In terms of water and sanitation provision, since 2006/07 we have increased our budget by approximately 185%. This year, an estimated budget of R521mil has been budgeted for water and sanitation provision to informal settlements.

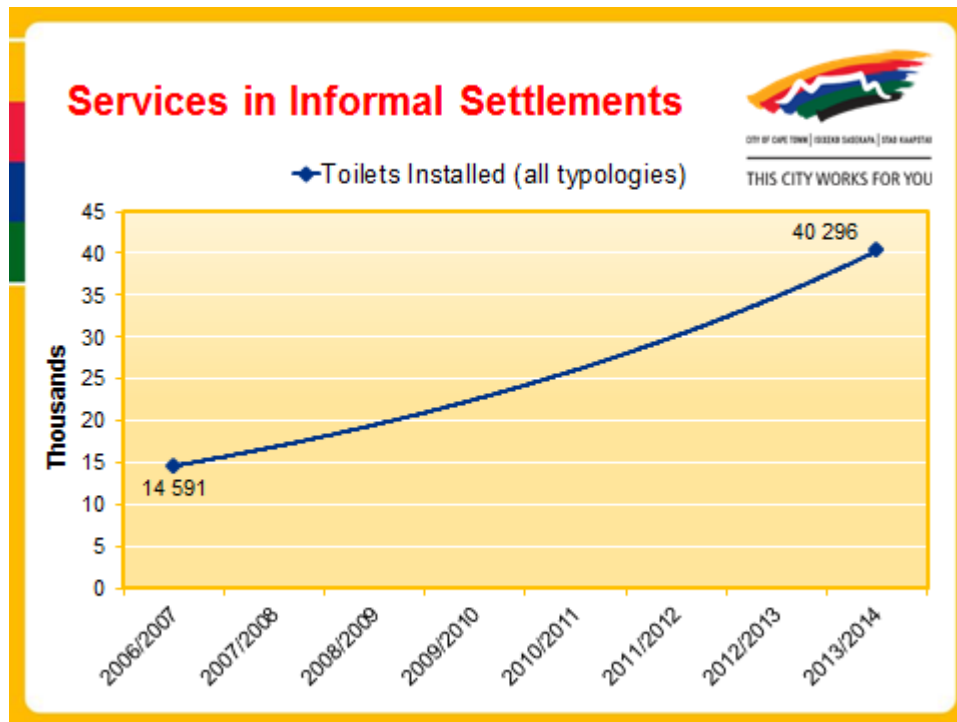


In terms of solid waste management, since 2006/07 we have increased our budget by approximately 112%. This year, an estimated budget of R141mil has been budgeted for the provision of solid waste management services to informal settlements. This provides for a weekly door-to-door service, provision of refuse bags, collection and area cleaning as well as litter picking between informal dwellings.



The number of toilets provided in informal settlements has increased from 14 591 to around 40 296 since 2006 – an increase of 176%. The total number of standpipes installed in this period is approximately 3500.

This has led to us well exceeding our target of 1 standpipe per 25 dwellings. This is a City-imposed target ratio and demonstrates our commitment to a higher level of service than elsewhere. This is not compelled in law, but is an expression of our efforts to improve service levels.



According to a National Department of Water Affairs' 2012 report, 100% of households within informal settlements in the City of Cape Town have access to adequate sanitation.

Despite providing the best level of access to sanitation in the country, the City has again imposed our own target ratio and committed to the provision of sanitation on a 1:5 ratio, in order to further enhance levels of service provision.

Based on the latest census results, only 19 000 households are currently serviced outside of this ratio. To reduce this further, the City will continue to provide full flush facilities where physically possible, and other sanitation types such as Portable Flush Toilets (PFTs) where conditions preclude the provision of full flush toilets.

Since April this year, the City has provided residents with over 7100 PFTs, this is over and above the more than 10 000 PFT's previously provided. This service is entirely voluntary and has been extremely well received by the vast majority of those who have chosen to make use of it.

The toilets are cleaned free of charge three times per week by a City contractor and are NOT bucket toilets, as has been incorrectly reported. PFTs are a sealed, water-based alternative that is fully FLUSHABLE providing access to dignified, safe sanitation.

There has been a particular emphasis on providing the PFTs to the approximately 700 people in the City, who are still using the 'bucket system'. This number has been reduced from the 958 that were still in the system when this campaign started. The figure remains at 700 due to continued political resistance in areas where the 'bucket system' is still in circulation, primarily in Boystown, KTC and France.

In a survey undertaken in Seawinds and Sir Lowry's Pass informal settlements, the overwhelming majority of recipients expressed their satisfaction with their PFTs, rating the servicing of the PFTs '5' – the highest possible rating. Comments received included 'no complaints' and 'service is very good'.

It is becoming increasingly clear, that it is only in those communities where there is organized political resistance that PFTs are not accepted. The City is providing this sanitation type only on a voluntary basis. The evidence is overwhelming that they are accepted by communities. Therefore I would like to call on all political parties and organisations to desist from unnecessarily politicising this issue, in the interests of service delivery, not political point scoring.

It must be explicitly stressed that no one in the city has to use a bucket toilet; we want to replace them with PFT's. However, we cannot force people to take up this offer.

In the City's electricity supply areas there have been approximately 21,305 new subsidized electricity connections between 2006/2007 and 2012/13. This is in addition to the City-funded Eskom supply provision that covers the bulk of the metro, which have added approximately 8812 in this same period.

Despite this large-scale investment, there are certain informal settlements in the City where we cannot provide certain service types due to prevailing local conditions.

For instance, full flush toilets cannot be installed on privately owned property, in areas of extremely high density, under power lines, on landfill sites, in a road or railway buffer, in flood plains, within servitudes, outside the Urban Edge, in areas where there is no bulk infrastructure, in water bodies/retention ponds and floodplains and in high-noise zones.

In the above instances, full flush toilets requiring permanent infrastructure cannot be installed as to do so would be in contravention of the Municipal Finance Management Act and would be considered wasteful expenditure by the Auditor General.

If the City was to install infrastructure in a flood plain, for example, there would be an increased risk of pump station malfunction and electrical damage due to flooding. This would result in increased environmental health hazards such as

sewage spills. The pipelines are also likely to sag which would increase the blockage rate. In the dry season, due to inherent poor drainage conditions, spillages would not drain away, contaminating the ground and ground water.

82% of informal settlements are either fully or partially effected by one or more of the above mentioned constraints. For example, in

- Joe Slovo North (Milnerton), 194 dwellings. This informal settlement is on private land, under power lines and on a road buffer.
- Vukezenzele/ Europe/Kanana/Barcelona, 15000 dwellings. This informal settlement is on an old landfill site
- Graveyard Pond, 327 dwellings. This informal settlement is on a pond/old graveyard site and a portion of it is under power lines and within road buffer
- RR section, 3154 dwellings. This informal settlement is partly on road reserve and under power lines
- Block 6 Philippi, 800 dwellings. This informal settlement is on a portion in road reserve and wetland.

It must be emphasised that despite these legal and physical constraints, the City still provides the highest level of service possible through alternative sanitation types, including PFT's, chemical and container toilets.

The Utility Services department has a number of key projects planned for the next year which will improve the lives of many living in informal areas. For example:

- Electricity Services have planned 7715 connections in City of Cape Town supply areas in this financial year. With approximately 1200 in Sweet Homes informal settlement, 2000 in Monwood and 450 additional connections in KTC Sections 4,5,6,and 7.
- Additionally Electricity Services has budgeted to connect more than 8 000 Eskom supply area households this year in areas including Enkanini phase 3 and in BM section, Khayelitsha.
- Solid waste will continue to improve and build on their informal settlement cleaning services that have been at 100% since 2008/2009 when services were fully integrated and delivered to all informal areas. We will further enhance this service, by ensuring that drop points are open on weekends.
- The Water and Sanitation informal settlements unit plans to build around 1,300 full flush toilets in this financial year. This will cost around R14.3 million rand and will be in areas across the City including Imizamo Yethu, Overcome Heights, Masiphumelele, Freedom Park, Burundi, Garden City, Polile, Beverley Hills, Rasta Kamp, SST Section, Enkanini, France, Monwood and Lansdowne Road.
- The Water and Sanitation informal settlements unit will continue to rollout alternative technologies such as chemical and portable flush toilets across the City in order to ensure the provision of sanitation to the best standards possible within mentioned constraints.

- The Water and Sanitation department will also continue to provide standpipes where possible and needed.
- Provision of janitorial services to full-flush toilets in Khayelitsha was introduced in 2012 to ensure that the infrastructure available was in proper working order. EPWP workers are employed to provide the service of monitoring, cleaning and reporting faults at communal toilets. Janitorial services will in future increasingly be used to monitor sanitation services provided by contractors.

The City of Cape Town remains committed to providing the best services we have available to our residents. Whilst challenges remain, we will continue to invest in improving the lives of all the people that live here, with a particular focus on the poor and vulnerable.