

Dear Residents of Dr Beyers Naudé



Cllr Willem Safers
Mayor,

I am pleased to present to you the latest edition of our municipal newsletter a vital platform to keep you informed about the developments, challenges, and achievements within our Municipality

**MAYOR'S
DESK
2025**

Mayor's Foreword

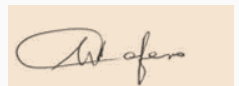
As we step into the 2025/2026 financial year, I extend a warm welcome to all residents, stakeholders, and partners of the Dr Beyers Naudé Local Municipality. This new chapter presents not only fresh opportunities but also renewed responsibility to deepen our commitment to inclusive development, transparent governance, and service delivery that meets the needs of our communities. Our collective journey ahead must be anchored in collaboration, accountability, and a shared vision for a better future.

During April and May, we embarked on an extensive Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and Budget Outreach Programme across all wards. These community engagements provided a valuable platform to listen to your concerns, share our strategic priorities, and reaffirm our commitment to inclusive, people-centred development. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the active participation and insightful contributions from residents throughout our municipality.

Your input is vital in shaping policies that reflect the needs and aspirations of our communities. We are beginning to see meaningful progress through our partnership with the Department of Public Works. Road maintenance projects are now underway in several areas, aimed at improving infrastructure, accessibility, and safety. These developments form part of our broader infrastructure investment strategy, which seeks to drive sustainable growth and enhance service delivery. In addition,

I had the privilege of officially opening the Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe Film Festival in Graaff-Reinet—an inspiring three-day event commemorating the centenary of a visionary leader. The festival powerfully highlighted the role of arts and storytelling in preserving our collective memory and cultivating future leadership.

We are also pleased to announce the delivery of solar power battery units for Graaff-Reinet and Willowmore. This initiative marks an important milestone in our journey toward energy resilience and a sustainable, low-carbon future. Thank you for your continued support, trust, and collaboration as we work together to build a more responsive, inclusive, and forward-looking municipality.



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Budget, Solar-Power, Tourism Indaba

Official Newsletter: Dr Beyers Naude Local Municipality



NEW BUDGET AND TARIFFS INCREASES

FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026

The IDP and Budget for 2025/26 were approved on 29 May 2025.

Copies of the approved 2025/2026 Annual Budget, Detailed tariff listing, Integrated Development Plan and supporting documents are available at the administrative units and public libraries in Graaff Reinet, Aberdeen, Nieu-Bethesda, Willowmore, Steytleville, Rietbron, Jansenville and Klipplaat, as well as the municipal website at www.bnlnm.gov.za.

The key service delivery priorities, as outlined in the IDP, informed the development of the Budget, including the need to maintain and improve the Municipality's financial sustainability.

Residents are urged to pay their municipal accounts monthly as this enables the municipality to sustain and improve the level of municipal services delivered to the community.

The indigent support (FBS) is also available to assist indigent households that have limited financial ability to pay for municipal services. Please visit our municipal offices for applications.

Indigent Support Package

 6kl Free
Water / month

 50kWh
Free Electricity
/ month

 100%
Free Refuse
Removal

 100%
Free
Sanitation

 100%
Property Rates
Rebate

 Apply at
any municipal
office

This issue:

New Budget

PAGE 01 - 02

Major Developments &
Service Delivery updates

PAGE 03 - 04

Renewable Energy

PAGE 05

Celebrating Legacy Robert
Sobukwe

PAGE 06

LED Tourism Indaba

PAGE 07

Announcements, Events,
and Updates

PAGE 07



2025/26 Budget Overview

Tariff
Increases
Effective
1 July 2025

✓ Approved on 29 May 2025

✓ Revenue: R718.5 million

✓ Expenditure: R653.1 million

✓ Capital Expenditure: R112.8 million

✓ Surplus: R65 million (Unfunded due to Eskom liabilities)

✓ Priorities: Infrastructure, cost containment, financial stability



Property Rates: +1%



Water: +4.6%



Refuse: +4.6%



Sewerage: +4.6%



Electricity: +14.3%



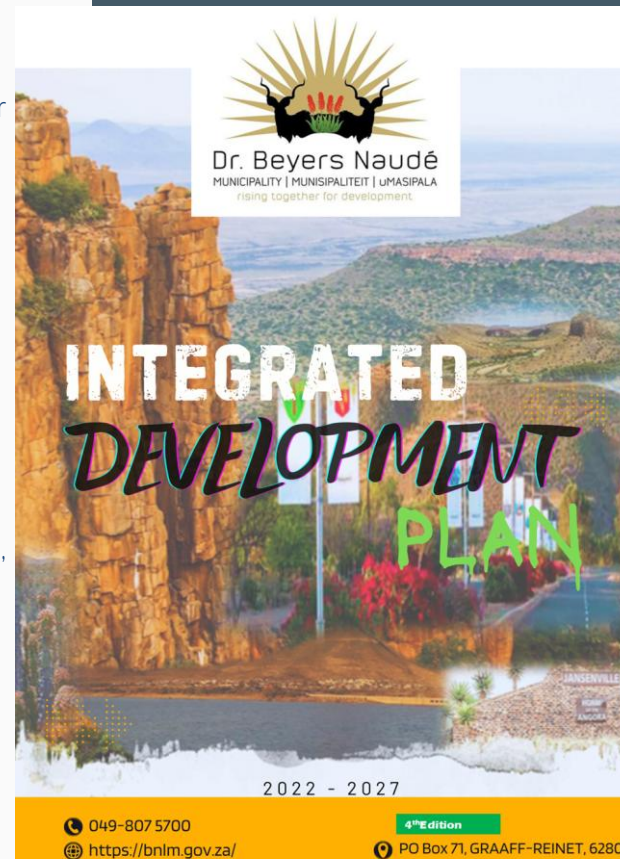
Major Developments & Service Delivery Updates

-  **Integrated Development Plan (IDP) Review**
 - Completed 4th Edition of the 2025/26 IDP.
 - Reinforces participatory governance and alignment with national and provincial priorities.
-  **Annual IDP Assessment**
 - Assessment Date: 15 August 2024 at Mpekwani Resort
 - 2024/25 Overall Rating: 70%
 - Action Plan: Developed to address shortcomings
 - Strategic Spatial Development Framework (SDF): Finalized
-  **Capital Projects Completed (2023/2024)**
 - Ikwezi Bulk Water Supply (Wards 10 & 11): 2 boreholes connected, new treatment works built
 - Wastewater Treatment Refurbishment (Wards 2–7): Major upgrades in Graaff-Reinet
 - Water Meter Installation (Ward 10): 187 meters installed
 - Sewerage Pump Station Refurbishment (Wards 2 & 7): 2 stations refurbished
 - Paving & Weighbridge (Ward 12): 580m² paving, weighbridge installed
 - Waterwise Toilet Retrofit (Wards 1–12): 556 units installed
 - High Mast Lights (Wards 2–7): 5 lights installed
 - Specialized Vehicles (Institutional): TLBs, compactor truck, loader procured

Public Participation & Mayoral Outreach (May 2025)

Community meetings held across all wards to discuss the IDP, SDF, and budget.

Some meetings faced disruptions or rescheduling, but most were successfully completed.





Major Developments & Service Delivery Updates

Multi-year Projects

- Informal Settlement Upgrades: Riemvasmaak & Vrygrond (Wards 2–7)
- New Sustainable Well Field: Ward 8
- Willowmore Steel Pipeline Replacement: Wards 8 & 9
- Road Upgrades: Tar and gravel roads across all wards
- Multi-Purpose Centre Development: Ward 7
- Standby Transformers Procurement

Flagship Projects

- 7de Laan Paving Project – Umasizakhe
 - Budget: R6.8 million
 - Scope: Interlocking paving & stormwater channels
 - Status: Tender stage; construction starts May 2025
- 3-Year Capital Plan (MIG Funded)
 - Collie Koeberg Sport Complex Phase 2 – R10M
 - Road Network Upgrades – R30M
 - Bridges & Culverts Refurbishment – R11M
 - High Mast Lights in Aberdeen – R4.2M
 - Stormwater Infrastructure – R27.4M
 - Specialized Waste Vehicles – R8.1M
- Water Services Infrastructure Grant
 - Indigent Toilet Retrofit – R3.6M (Completion: Aug 2025)
 - Graaff-Reinet Reservoir & Solar Power – R19.7M
- Municipal Disaster Relief Grant
 - Jansenville (Phase 2) – R5M
 - Willowmore (Phase 3) – R11.4M

What's Next?

- Borehole connections in Willowmore & Mimosa
- Klipplaat water network upgrades
- Continued road and stormwater improvements
- Upgrades to sport facilities and electrical infrastructure

Road Maintenance in Full Swing Across Beyers Naudé Wards

The Public Works Unit of Dr Beyers Naudé Local Municipality is actively addressing critical road maintenance across various wards. Recent work includes pothole repairs, stormwater upgrades, and grading of gravel roads. These efforts reflect our commitment to safer roads, better mobility, and responsive service delivery based on community feedback and ward-based requests. We thank residents for their patience and cooperation during these essential improvements.



The Dr Beyers Naudé Local Municipality is proud to announce the arrival of the first batch of solar power batteries, which will be installed in Willowmore and Graaff-Reinet as part of our ongoing renewable energy project.

This development marks a key milestone in our commitment to sustainable energy solutions and greater resilience against load shedding.

These installations will lay the groundwork for broader expansion across the municipality—advancing energy security, promoting environmental sustainability, and enhancing service delivery. We extend our sincere appreciation to all stakeholders who have contributed to this initiative.

The Municipality remains dedicated to pursuing innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for all residents.

**Dr Beyers Naudé LM
Welcomes First
Batch of Solar Power
Batteries.**





The Dr Beyers Naudé Local Municipality successfully hosted a Tourism Indaba in Graaff-Reinet. The event was officially opened by the Speaker of Council, Cllr C. Felix, and brought together key stakeholders from the tourism and economic development sectors.

Participants included representatives from the Provincial Department of Tourism, Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA), Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT), Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECDC), the Graaff-Reinet Community Tourism Organization (GRT CTO), and local small businesses such as Lizzy's Khaya. The Indaba featured a series of presentations and engagements focused on strengthening collaboration, identifying growth opportunities, and promoting the region's tourism potential. Discussions also centered on strategies to position Graaff-Reinet and the broader Dr Beyers Naudé area as leading tourist destinations in the Eastern Cape. The event was well received and highlighted the importance of public-private partnerships in unlocking tourism-driven economic development. The Municipality thanks all stakeholders and participants for their contributions to the success of the Indaba.

Date of Event: 25
June 2025,
Venue: Botanics,
Graaff-Reinet.

**local
Economic
Development**





To ensure stakeholder engagement and transparency, policy workshops were conducted on 14–15 April 2025 and 11–12 June 2025 with administration and organized labour. Inputs from these sessions have been included into revised policies

The continuous evolution of workplace dynamics and legislative frameworks necessitates the regular review and updating of human resources (HR) policies within municipal structures. This initiative reflects the municipality's commitment to aligning its internal processes with current legislation, enhancing employee development, and minimizing the misuse of municipal systems.

The review encompasses a wide array of existing policies, totaling twenty-three, which include critical areas such as recruitment and selection, study assistance, succession planning, overtime, leave management, sexual harassment, employment equity, and medical aid membership, among others. These policies were not only revisited to ensure compliance with updated legal standards but also to incorporate practical changes based on recent occurrences and operational needs.

Review and Update of Human Resource Policies Workshop



International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking



The Department of Social Development, in partnership with local and provincial stakeholders, commemorated the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26 June 2025 at the Alex Laing Community Hall in Graaff-Reinet under the theme "Break the Chains, Stop Organized Crime." Mayor Cllr Safers of the Dr Beyers Naudé Local Municipality welcomed attendees and underscored the importance of community unity and multi-sector collaboration in tackling substance abuse. **The MEC for Social Development, Hon. Ms Fanta,** delivered a powerful keynote address reaffirming the government's commitment to dismantling drug networks and urging citizens to take an active role in prevention and recovery efforts. Stakeholders including Rev. Sokana (Central Drug Authority), Mr. Fani (Eastern Cape Liquor Board), and Brigadier Naidoo (SAPS) delivered messages of support, while Mr. Nkathazo, a recovering addict, offered an inspiring personal testimony. The event concluded with a symbolic handover of educational materials and a prayer for the youth, reinforcing a united front in the fight against drug abuse and organized crime.





Local Businesses Explore Global Trade at CIIE Outreach in Graaff-Reinet



Sarah Baartman
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
Province of the Eastern Cape
progress through development

The Sarah Baartman District Municipality's Trade and Investment Unit hosted its third Trade and Investment Outreach session in Graaff-Reinet, aiming to connect local businesses with global export opportunities, especially through the China International Import Expo (CIIE) and the upcoming Experiential Hub.

Led by Dr Albert Yu, the session offered insights on preparing for export markets, meeting international standards, and leveraging global platforms like the CIIE—an annual event in Shanghai that draws businesses and buyers from over 150 countries.

Local entrepreneur Hanna Makoba, of the New Horizon Sewing Cooperative, raised important concerns on product quality, to which Dr Yu responded by highlighting the District's strict quality assurance and regulatory compliance measures for all CIIE applicants.

Attendees were also introduced to the Experiential Hub, launching in November, which includes a physical storefront in China and an online platform to support export readiness, product development, and international market access.



Application Deadlines:

- CIIE Applications: Close 10 July 2025
- Experiential Hub Applications: Close 31 July 2025



For Applications & Enquiries:

•zmajola@sbdm.co.za | 041 508 7356

•General info: ayu@sbdm.co.za

Empowering local businesses to go global.



Visionaries of Freedom Film Festival

The festival was officially opened by Mariza Matshaya, Director of Seismic Media Eastern Cape, the event organizers. The ceremony was attended by notable guests, including Dr Beyers Naudé Municipality Mayor Cllr Willem Safers, ECPACC CEO Monde Nkasawe, DEDEAT representative Nozipho Booi, members of the community, and the Robert Sobukwe Trust, represented by Mangaliso and Tshepo Sobukwe. In his welcome address, Mayor Safers emphasized the importance of the occasion, stating:

"Memorials help a nation preserve its history and pass it on accurately from generation to generation. Robert Sobukwe's legacy reminds us of the power of creative arts as a tool for social change and historical reflection.

"DEDEAT's Nozipho Booi affirmed the department's support for the creative sector: "We are committed to helping filmmakers access funding through the DTIC Film Fund and promoting the Eastern Cape as a film destination.

Our Creative Industries Development Framework supports music, performing and visual arts, and digital media to position the province as a creative hub and boost job creation."



Held 05-07 June 2025

Rupert's Theatre



Master of Ceremony
Thabiso Mokhethi



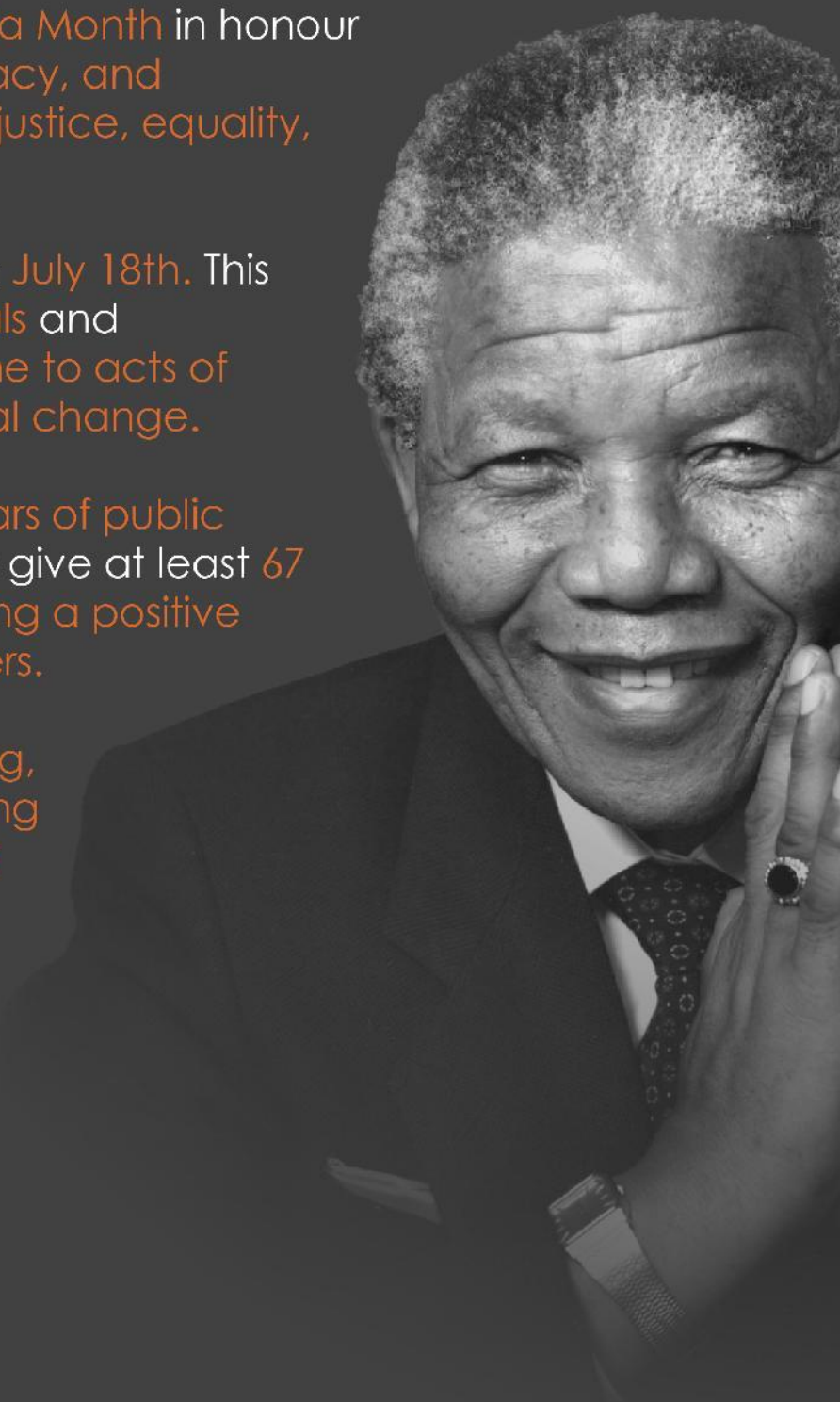
MANDELA MONTH

July is celebrated as **Mandela Month** in honour of **Nelson Mandela's** life, legacy, and unwavering commitment to justice, equality, and human rights.

Mandela Day is observed on **July 18th**. This month encourages individuals and communities to dedicate time to acts of service, upliftment, and social change.

Inspired by **Mandela's 67 years** of public service, people are urged to give at least **67 minutes** of their time to making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Whether through **volunteering**, **community clean-ups**, **feeding schemes**, or simply helping a neighbor, **Mandela Month** reminds us that each of us has the power to build a better, more compassionate world.



Emergency Contacts Details:



| Graaff-Reinet Area | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Graaff-Reinet Switchboard | 049-807 5700 |
| Graaff-Reinet Municipal Manager's Office | 049-807 5701 |
| Graaff-Reinet Robert Sobukwe Building | 049-807 5702 |
| Graaff-Reinet Call Centre | 049-807 5710 |
| Graaff-Reinet Traffic Department | 049-807 5711 |
| Protection Services Standby | 061 646 3361 |
| Fire Services Standby | 060 425 0113 / 084 256 1536 |
| ESKOM Consumers | 086 003 7566 |
| Satellite Offices | |
| Aberdeen Main Office | 049-807 5703 |
| Aberdeen Service Area (Electricity) – standby | 082 822 8957 |
| Aberdeen Service Area (Water) – standby | 063 371 8590 |
| | |
| Nieu-Bethesda Office | 049-807 5714 |
| Nieu-Bethesda Service Area (after hours) | 082 734 8392 |

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Jansenville/Klipplaat Service Area Standby | 079 557 8228 |
| | |
| Willowmore Main Office | 049-807 5704 |
| Willowmore Tourism Office | 049-807 5709 |
| Willowmore Traffic Department | 049-807 5712 |
| Willowmore emergency (standby) line | 049-807 5713 |
| Willowmore Service Area Standby | 079 1234 176/076 940 2442 |
| | |
| Rietbron Main Office | 049-807 5705 |
| Rietbron Services Area Standby | 079 021 5746 |
| | |
| Steytlerville Main Office | 049-807 5706 |
| Steytlerville Service Area (Water & Sanitation) Standby | 069 117 3911 |
| Steytlerville Service Area (Electricity) Standby | 081 333 0135 |