

VOL. 1 ISSUE 2 · JULY 2025

Beyers Naudé Embarks on New Era of Electricity Reform

Official Newsletter: Dr Beyers Naude Local Municipality



CALL TO ALL RESIDENTS – APPLY FOR IGG

The Dr Beyers Naudé Local Municipality invites all eligible residents to apply for the Individual Grants and Government (IGG) support programme. This initiative is aimed at providing financial and developmental assistance to qualifying individuals and groups within our community.

Applications must include all required supporting documents and be submitted municipal offices. For more information on criteria, application forms, and submission details, please visit your nearest municipal office or our official website.

Don't miss this opportunity to grow and improve your livelihood — apply today!

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:

Mayors Foreword

Electricity Reform

Major Developments & Service Delivery updates

Deputy Minister Graham-Maré,

Intergovernmental relations (IGR)

SPU Mandela Month 67 Month

G20 GCIS
DBNL BUDGET

Emergency Contacts

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 advance into 2025/2026, Dr. Beyers Naudé Municipality is driving transformative change grounded in energy resilience, inclusive infrastructure, and collaborative governance. This month marks a historic milestone: the commissioning of our first Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)—a privately funded innovation that will reduce electricity costs through strategic energy trading and unlock our Utility Bill Rebate Programme. This is a decisive step toward affordable, sustainable power for all.

Simultaneously, our infrastructure upgrades are gaining momentum. Road and stormwater repairs are underway across 12 wards, including critical work in Kroonvale, Umasizakhe, and Spandauville, alongside gravel road grading and water carting services. These efforts, detailed in our Public Works reports, directly address your feedback and prioritize safety, mobility, and service reliability.

This August, we honor Women's Month by celebrating the fearless women of 1956 who shaped our democracy. Their legacy challenges us to build a municipality where every woman is safe, respected, and empowered. I urge our community to participate in local dialogues, support women-led enterprises through our IGG grants and NYDA programmes and stand against gender-based violence. Together, let's advance economic inclusion and create opportunities that uplift women in every ward—because when women thrive, our whole community rises.

We also celebrated Mandela Month with profound purpose. Through the Handing-Over Ceremony, we equipped youth athletes and graduates with sports kits and training certificates, while our SPU Unit partnered with 10+ agencies to support residents with disabilities—honoring Madiba's legacy through tangible community action.

Crucially, our IGR Forum has cemented cross-departmental commitments to ward-specific development: road/water upgrades, youth skills programs, and agricultural support—all aligned with the District Development Model's 'One Plan' framework. While challenges like the Owl House craft stalls delay require urgent resolution, we are mobilizing intergovernmental resources to accelerate progress.

Together, we are building a municipality that innovates, includes, and delivers. Thank you for your partnership as we turn plans into lasting progress."

CELEBRATING
WOMEN'S
HISTORY
MONTH



August Reminds Us Of The Bravery Of The 1956 Women Who Stood Up For Freedom And Justice, And It Challenges Us To Keep Building A Society Where Every Woman Is Safe, Respected, And Empowered.



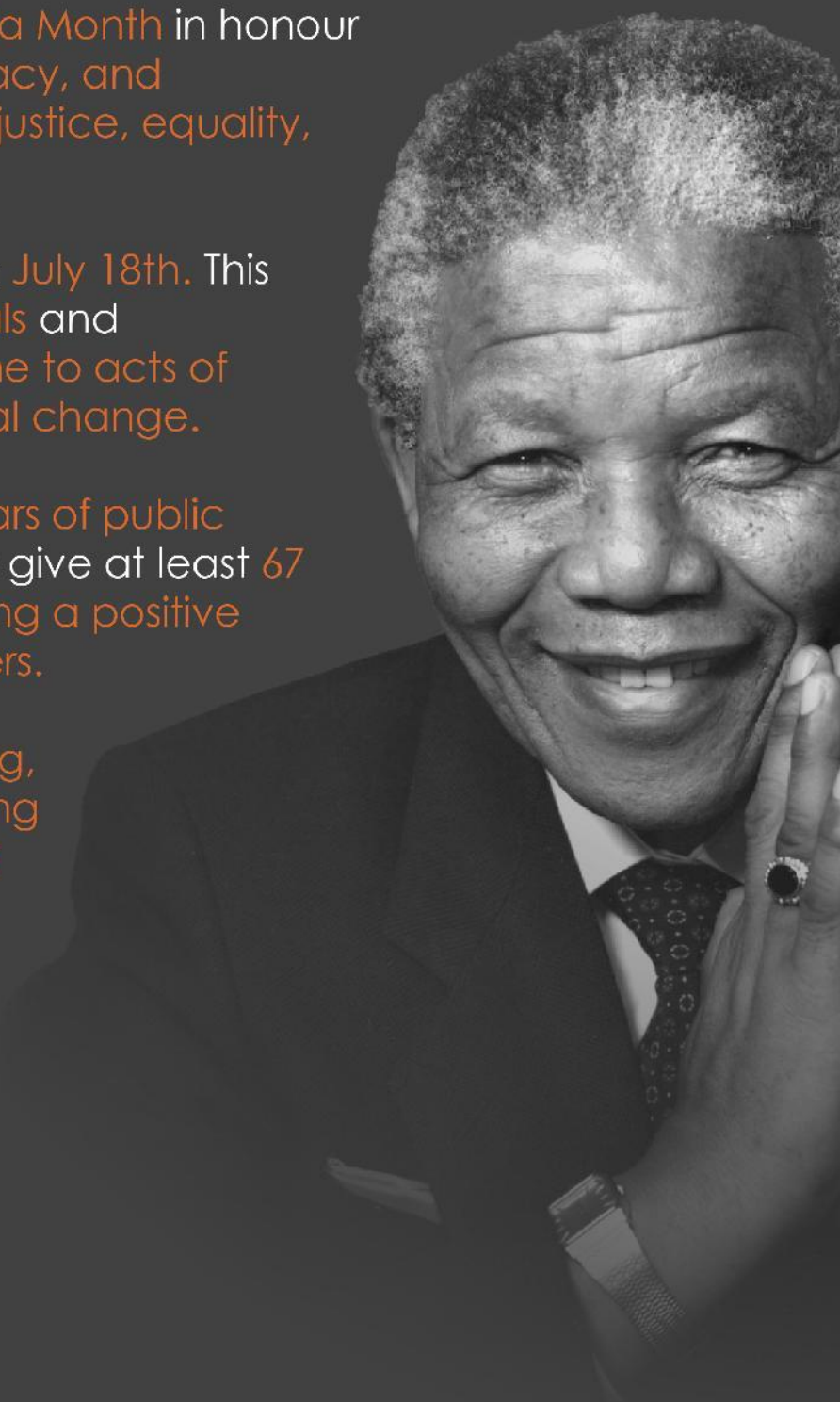
MANDELA MONTH

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.





Dr. Beyers Naudé Municipality Commissions First Privately Funded Battery Energy Storage System

Dr. Beyers Naudé Municipality Commissions First Privately Funded Battery Energy Storage System Dr. Beyers Naudé Local Municipality has officially commissioned its first privately funded Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) — a landmark step in delivering sustainable, affordable electricity to residents.

Standing alongside the new installation, members of the Municipal Technical and Energy teams marked a historic milestone: for the first time, the municipality can actively participate in alternative electricity supply under the national Small-Scale Embedded Generation (SSEG) program, in full compliance with Schedule 2 of the Electricity Regulation Act. Through the UtCS My Munic Digital Energy Platform, the BESS will strategically store energy when prices are lower and discharge it when costs peak, reducing reliance on costly electricity purchases from Eskom.

This innovative deployment directly addresses long-standing, non-cost-reflective electricity tariffs that have challenged the municipality's financial sustainability. Beyond balancing Eskom account settlements, the grid-connected BESS unlocks an even greater achievement — the activation of the Council-approved Utility Bill Rebate Program. This initiative, enabled by improved electricity trading margins, will help make municipal electricity more affordable for residents. "This is only the beginning," said the municipality.

"In the coming months, we will roll out more grid-integrated, alternative supply projects — each strengthening our energy resilience and financial stability." Residents can look forward to regular updates, including clear guidance on how households will directly benefit. While the path ahead is technically complex, the goal is simple: a reformed municipal electricity model that delivers lasting value to every consumer. The journey to affordable electricity has begun.

Let's build a brighter, more affordable energy future — for all.

#AffordableElectricity #SSEG #MunicipalReform #BESS #DrBeyersNaude #UtilityRebate
#JustEnergyTransition





Roads & Stormwater Progress **Dr. Beyers Naudé Local Municipality keeps infrastructure upgrades on track**

The Dr. Beyers Naudé Local Municipality has released its Roads and Stormwater Report, highlighting significant progress in road maintenance, stormwater upgrades, gravel road grading, and water carting services across Graaff-Reinet, Aberdeen, and Nieu-Bethesda.

Pothole Patching Across Multiple Wards:

The Roads Team, supported by a tar crew focused on improving key streets:

Ward 2: Parliament & Caroline Streets (Horseshoe)

Ward 4: Gideon Scheepers, Kingwill, Pres Burger, Louis Trichardt, Louw Wepenaar & Piet Uys (Berg en Dal)

Wards 5 & 4: Republic Street (Kroonvale)

Ward 4: Meintjies & Kingwill Drive (Spandauville)

Ward 6: Jongani & Themba Streets (Umasizakhe)

Other key roads: Main Road, Queen Street, Somerset, Plasket Street, Alec Du Toit, Middle Street, River Street, Woeke Street, Bresler Street

Stormwater and Sidewalk Repairs:

A dedicated stormwater and carpentry team carried out various upgrades, including:

Cleaning stormwater channels in Hope Street (Aberdeen, Wards 1 & 7)

Catchpit cleaning in Acasia Street (Kroonvale, Ward 5)

Replacement of broken or damaged slabs in Horseshoe and Industrial Area (Ward 2)

Sidewalk paving repairs in College Road (Spandauville, Ward 4)

Damaged paving repairs in Scholtz Street (Industrial Area, Ward 2)

Gate repairs at Community Hall (Umasizakhe, Ward 6)

Grading of Gravel Roads:

Extensive grading took place in Graaff-Reinet, Adendorp, Umasizakhe, Asherville, and Kroonvale, improving road access and safety for residents.

Water Carting Services:

To ensure continued water supply in areas facing shortages, water carting was carried out in Graaff-Reinet, Aberdeen, Jansenville, Klipplaat, and Nieu-Bethesda during the reporting period. Municipal spokesperson said, "We are committed to maintaining and improving our infrastructure to ensure better service delivery to all communities. These works form part of our ongoing programme to create safer, more accessible streets and reliable water services."



Major Developments & Service Delivery Updates

Public Works Weekly Road & Stormwater Maintenance Update

The Dr. Beyers Naudé Municipality's Infrastructure Services – Public Works Section has announced this week's maintenance schedule.

Road Maintenance:

The pothole repair team will focus on key taxi routes, including Vink Street, Willie Deysel Street, Lang Street (Santaville), Republic Street, Jongani Street, and Woeke Street.

Stormwater Maintenance:

The stormwater team will be cleaning all water catchpits and manholes in the Bergen Dal area, with attention to Piet Uys, Hendrik Potgieter, Louw Wepenaar, Pres Burger, Gideon Scheepers, and surrounding streets.

Note:

Grader operations remain suspended due to mechanical faults.

DR BEYERS NAUDE LM

PUBLIC WORKS

WEEKLY ROAD MAINTENANCE

9 June 2025 - 13 June 2025

The team will be closing potholes in the Kroonvale area focusing in the following streets:

- Republic street
- Du plesies street
- Accasia street
- President street
- East street
- Springbok
- Duiker street
- Kudu street
- Carnation street.

STORM WATER...
Cleaning of all water manholes, water catchpits, furrows and channels in the KROONVALE area.

GRADER OPERATIONS. Dry blading will be taking place in the Masizakhe and Kroonvale area.

Rising together for development

049 807 5700

36 Church Street, Graaff-Reintet

www.bnml.gov.za

Dr. Beyers Naudé
MUNICIPALITY OF KROONVALE

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.



Owl House Craft Stalls Project Stalled for Three Years – Urgent Action Promised

On 18 July 2025, a meeting was held at the municipal auditorium with Deputy Minister Graham-Maré, representatives from the Owl House Board, and municipal councillors to address the long-standing issue of upgrading craft stalls outside the Owl House in Nieu-Bethesda. The Owl House, the town's leading tourist attraction, draws many visitors who also support local crafters.

However, current makeshift stalls—built by traders to withstand harsh weather—are in poor condition, prompting complaints from tourists and the community. In 2021, Council approved the construction of permanent trading structures, funded by a private investor, but progress has been stalled since 2022 due to a single appeal lodged against the project. Under SPLUMA regulations, an Appeals Committee must decide on the matter, yet no decision has been taken in three years. Board members expressed frustration, noting that designs are ready, funding is secured, and zoning changes have been approved—but bureaucratic delays are denying crafters a dignified workspace. The investor's funding also has a time limit. The Owl House Foundation also highlighted their ongoing support for crafters, including facilitating card payments for tourists and absorbing transaction costs. They warned that conditions must improve ahead of a planned November 2026 Helen Martins commemorative event to be attended by Minister Gayton McKenzie. The Foundation has given the municipality 14 days to respond. All parties agreed the matter requires urgent resolution.



LAUNCH OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS



At the IGR & IDP Representative Forum held on 29 July 2025, government departments committed to targeted development across Dr. Beyers Naudé's 12 wards. Planned actions for 2025/2026 include road, water, and sanitation upgrades; expansion of early childhood development facilities; anti-poverty programmes; youth entrepreneurship and skills training; agricultural support; and sport. All interventions are aligned with the Eastern Cape's 2024–2030 IGR Strategy and the District Development Model, ensuring coordinated budgets and resources to close service delivery gaps. To drive results, the forum established strong accountability systems, including an IGR Clusters to track progress and quarterly reporting through the DDM's "One Plan" framework.. By uniting national, provincial, and local priorities with civil society and traditional leaders, the municipality is working to create inclusive, lasting change—ensuring that every ward benefits from shared growth and development.

IGR





67 Minutes for Mandela – Serving Our Community with Dignity

In honour of Tata Nelson Mandela's birthday



Held July 2025

JANSENVILLE

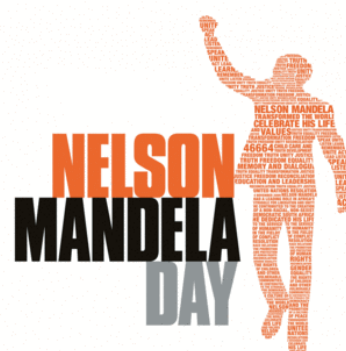
Dr Beyers SPU Unit dedicated 67 minutes to uplifting some of the most vulnerable members of our community — people with disabilities. This year's initiative brought together a powerful network of partners, including the Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECDC), Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, various NGOs, Mzoxolo Foundation, Correctional Services, SAPS, Social Development, SASSA, Home Affairs, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and Sarah Baartman District Municipality. The day's activities focused on practical acts of service. Volunteers cleaned homes for people with disabilities, while the Department of Forestry and Fisheries planted trees in their gardens, creating green spaces for shade and beauty.

The Department of Agriculture also handed over seeds, empowering households to grow their own food for sustainable living. This collective effort reflected Madiba's legacy of unity, compassion, and action — proving that when we work together, we can make a lasting difference in our community.."



SPECIAL
PROGRAMS UNIT
JANSENVILLE

Mandela Day Handing-Over Ceremony Empowers Local Youth and Schools



On 22 July 2025, Dr. Beyers Naudé Municipality marked Mandela Day with a special Handing-Over Ceremony, celebrating the spirit of giving back and community upliftment. The event saw the formal donation of resources to six local beneficiary groups, including sports kits for Spandau Secondary's netball team, chess equipment for Kroonvale Primary, and a football kit for Warriors FC.

In addition, certificates were awarded to disabled youth trained through MICSETA, construction trainees via CETA, and general skills development graduates supported by NYDA and SEDFA. The programme featured an opening prayer, a keynote message from Mayor Cllr. W. Safers, responses from recipients, and remarks by youth development agencies, ending with a heartfelt vote of thanks. By combining symbolic recognition with practical support, the municipality continues to invest in education, sports, and youth empowerment — honouring Tata Mandela's legacy of active citizenship and community building.



MUNICIPAL SUPPORT INTERVENTION




On 14 July 2025, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) conducted a Municipal Support Intervention at Dr Beyers Naude Municipality. The intervention aimed to evaluate the municipality's performance in relation to the Key Performance Areas (KPA's) outlined in the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act 32 of 2000), and the implementation of the Putting People First Principles, Basic Service Delivery, Good Governance, Sound Financial Management and Building Capable Local Government and Local Economic Development and on 11th August all key areas were updated accordingly.

The visit formed part of COGTA's ongoing programme to strengthen governance, improve service delivery, and ensure compliance with statutory and policy frameworks.





The event G20 Youth Dialogue was held to empower young people by creating a platform for various government departments and entities to share information about available opportunities in education, entrepreneurship, skills development, and employment. This initiative supports Priority One of the Medium Term Development Plan, which focuses on inclusive economic growth and job creation.










government communications
Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

GCIS INVITES THE YOUTH OF GRAAFF-REINET TO A G20 THOUGHT LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE THAT WILL BE TAKING PLACE AS FOLLOWS:

DATE: 31 JULY 2025
TIME : 10:00 AM
PLACE: ALEX LAING COMMUNITY HALL, KROOVALE

For further details contact: Miss Nolvuyo Mangweni at nolvuyo@gcis.gov.za

Solidarity **Equality** **Sustainability**





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%

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