



+27 28 514 8500

info@swellendam.gov.za

swellenmun

www.swellendam.gov.za

+27 28 514 2694

49 Voortrek Street, Swellendam | P.O Box 20, Swellendam 6740

MAYORAL DRAFT BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE 2024/2025 FISCAL YEAR

Honourable Council Members, Esteemed Guests, and Citizens of Swellendam,

I am before you today with a sense of responsibility and commitment to present the **draft** fiscal year 2024/2025 budget. It is a privilege to outline our municipality's financial plan, which aims to address the needs of our community while ensuring sustainable growth and development.

Economic Overview:

As we navigate through uncertain economic times, both globally and locally, it's crucial to adopt prudent fiscal policies that prioritise stability and resilience. Despite the challenges, Swellendam Municipality continues to show resilience, buoyed by our citizens' and businesses' dedication and ingenuity. This is evident by the recent Ratings Africa report that rates Swellendam Municipality in the top 5 municipalities in the country for financial sustainability and the 8th best-run small town rated by Good Governance Africa.

Although we have regressed from an unqualified audit opinion to an unqualified with matters, the commitment from our CFO and her team to submit our AFS and Annual report under extreme pressure and tremendous challenges to the Auditor General shows the never-say-die attitude that Swellendam Municipality is known for.

Budget Priorities:

Our budget priorities are rooted in the fundamental principles of inclusivity, sustainability, and progress. We are committed to enhancing the quality of life for all residents, fostering economic vitality, and safeguarding our natural environment.

Key Highlights:

1. **Infrastructure Investment:** Infrastructure forms the backbone of our municipality. We have allocated significant resources towards maintaining and upgrading our roads, water supply systems, and public facilities. These investments are essential for promoting connectivity, enhancing safety, and supporting economic activities. Our commitment to infrastructure upgrades is also a testament to the fact that Swellendam Municipality's infrastructure

development score has improved from 17 points at the end of 2018 to 87 out of 100 at the end of 2023. This is a remarkable achievement.

2. **Economic Development:** Economic development is a cornerstone of our vision for Swellendam Municipality. We are dedicated to creating an environment that fosters entrepreneurship, attracts investment, and promotes job creation. Through strategic initiatives and partnerships, we aim to unlock the full potential of our local economy.
3. **Environmental Sustainability:** Preserving our natural heritage is paramount to our municipality's identity and well-being. We have earmarked funds for environmental conservation, renewable energy projects, and waste management initiatives. By embracing sustainable practices, we can ensure a greener and healthier future for future generations.

Financial Outlook:

While optimistic about the future, we must exercise prudence in our financial management. Our budget reflects a balanced approach that prioritises essential services while maintaining fiscal discipline. We will continue to explore opportunities for efficiency gains and revenue diversification to safeguard our municipality's long-term financial sustainability.

I want to thank the Administration, especially the Municipal Manager, Anneleen Voster, CFO Elmari Wasserman, Director Keith Stuurman and Acting Director Willem Treurnicht, for their steadfast and resilient approach to moving Swellendam forward.

I would also like to thank the Council for their support in realising our strategic vision for improving our service delivery offering through prudent financial management and infrastructure development.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, today's draft budget represents a blueprint for progress and prosperity in Swellendam Municipality. It embodies our collective aspirations and endeavours to build a better future for all. **I urge all stakeholders to engage constructively in the budget process and contribute towards realising our shared vision. We can overcome challenges, seize opportunities, and chart a course towards a brighter tomorrow.**

Thank you.

Francois du Rand
Executive Mayor
Swellendam Municipality