

19 March 2026

Mr. O.T Bojosinyane
(Acting Municipal Manager)
Ditsobotla
Civic Centre
Transvaal Street
Lichtenburg
2740

BY E-MAIL: Municipal Manager: alphdev97.kam@gmail.com; olaotsetheo@gmail.com;
info@ditsobotla.gov.za

Dear Mr. Bojosinyane

WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR IDP OF 2026/2027

1. We address this letter to you in our capacity as a registered community organisation, acting as such through our local AfriForum Lichtenburg and Coligny Branch.
2. As community organisation, we feel obliged to assist you in identifying key areas of improvement to continually promote the standards of living, as well as the safety of our members and the general community.
3. Section 152 of the Constitution stipulates the different objectives of the local government. More specifically, section 152(d) stipulates that a municipality must encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations in the matters of local government. The municipality's IDP is a particularly important matter for all residents in the Ditsobotla Local Municipality because it has a direct effect on their area.
4. As the time for drafting the IDP for 2026/2027 is coming closer, we would like to form part of the public participation process for the drafting of the municipality's IDP. We want to do this by submitting, in writing, a few pressing issues that we, as an organisation, feel needs to be resolved and therefor needs to be included in the IDP. Thus, please find attached a list of all the issues we have identified.

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mnr. C.M. Kriel, ds. D. Laufs, prof. J.J. Malan en mnr. W.J. Nel • Maatskappysekreteraris: Mnr. N.H. Arnold

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5. Because involving community in matters of local government is one of your objectives, we trust that you will take this submission into consideration when drafting the IDP.

For this purpose, your attention is directed to Regulation 15 of the Local Government: Municipal Planning and Performance Management Regulations, 2001 (published under GN R796 in GG 22605 of 24 August 2001) which provides as follows:

Regulation 15: "Community participation in respect of integrated development planning and performance management

(1)(a) In the absence of an appropriate municipal wide structure for community participation, a municipality must establish a forum that will enhance community participation in-

- (i) the drafting and implementation of the municipality's integrated development plan; and*
- (ii) the monitoring, measurement, and review of the municipality's performance in relation to the key performance indicators and performance targets set by the municipality.*
- (b) Before establishing a forum in terms of paragraph (a), a municipality must, through appropriate mechanisms, invite the local community to identify persons to serve on the forum, including representatives from ward committees, if any.*
- (c) A forum established in terms of paragraph (a) must be representative of the composition of the local community of the municipality concerned.*

(2) A municipality must-

- (a) convene regular meetings of the forum referred to in sub regulation (1) to*
 - (i) discuss the process to be followed in drafting the integrated development plan.*
 - (ii) consult on the content of the integrated development plan.*
 - (iii) monitor the implementation of the integrated development plan.*
 - (iv) discuss the development, implementation, and review of the municipality's performance management system; and*

- (v) *monitor the municipality's performance in relation to the key performance indicators and performance targets set by the municipality; and*
- (b) *allow members of the forum at least 14 days before any meeting of the forum to consult their respective constituencies on the matters that will be discussed at such a meeting.*
- (3) *A municipality must afford the local community at least 21 days to comment on the final draft of its integrated development plan before the plan is submitted to the council for adoption.*

We would like to thank you in advance for taking our submission into consideration and resolving these issues for the community.

Kind Regards

Armand Viljoen

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AfriForum

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UPDATED EVIDENCE-BASED COMMENTARY

The commentary below updates our previous 2025 submission using the municipality's adopted 2025/2026 IDP, the 2025/2026 approved tariffs, and the latest publicly available financial and service-delivery statistics for Ditsobotla.

1. Executive summary

Theme	Status	Evidence	Conclusion
Audit outcomes	No material improvement	Disclaimer audit opinions remained in place through 2023/24; no 2024/25 published audit outcome located.	Financial governance remains a major concern.
Operating deficit	Improved, but still severe	Deficit improved from R279.4m in 2023/24 to R234.0m in 2024/25.	This is improvement, but the municipality still spent far more than it earned.
Liquidity	Still distressed	Current assets were R1.311bn against current liabilities of R2.889bn in 2024/25; current ratio about 0.45.	Ditsobotla remains technically illiquid.
Water and sanitation access	Long-term improvement, operational weakness remains	Water inside dwelling rose from 34.9% (2011) to 44.5% (2022); flush toilets rose from 47.3% to 66.3%. Yet the IDP records erratic supply and only 6 of 26 Coligny boreholes operational.	Backlogs narrowed, but system reliability remains poor.
Refuse removal	Worsened	Weekly municipal refuse removal fell from 37.6% of households in 2011 to 29.3% in 2022.	Waste and landfill management require urgent intervention.
Landfill compliance	Still poor	The 2025/2026 IDP states the operational Lichtenburg landfill does not meet minimum	Previous community concerns remain valid and unresolved.

		requirements and operates as a dumpsite.	
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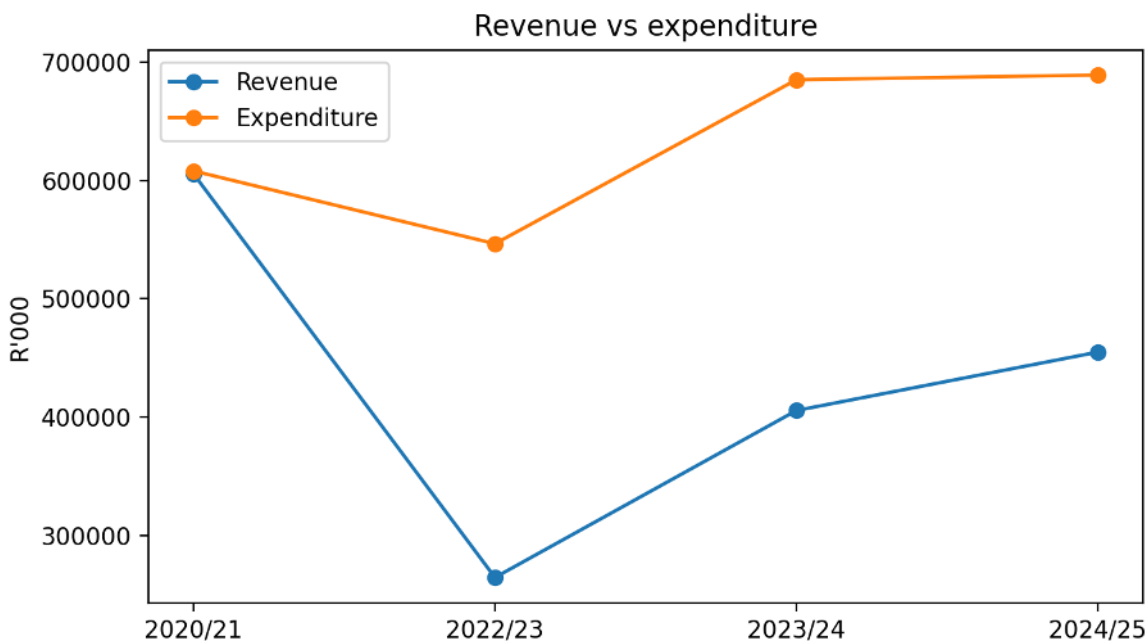
Sources: Ditsobotla 2025/2026 IDP; Ditsobotla 2025/2026 approved tariffs; Municipalities of South Africa directory (compiled from official municipal, Treasury and Stats SA sources).

2. Financial governance and viability

The latest published financial figures show that Ditsobotla remains in serious financial distress, despite isolated signs of improvement.

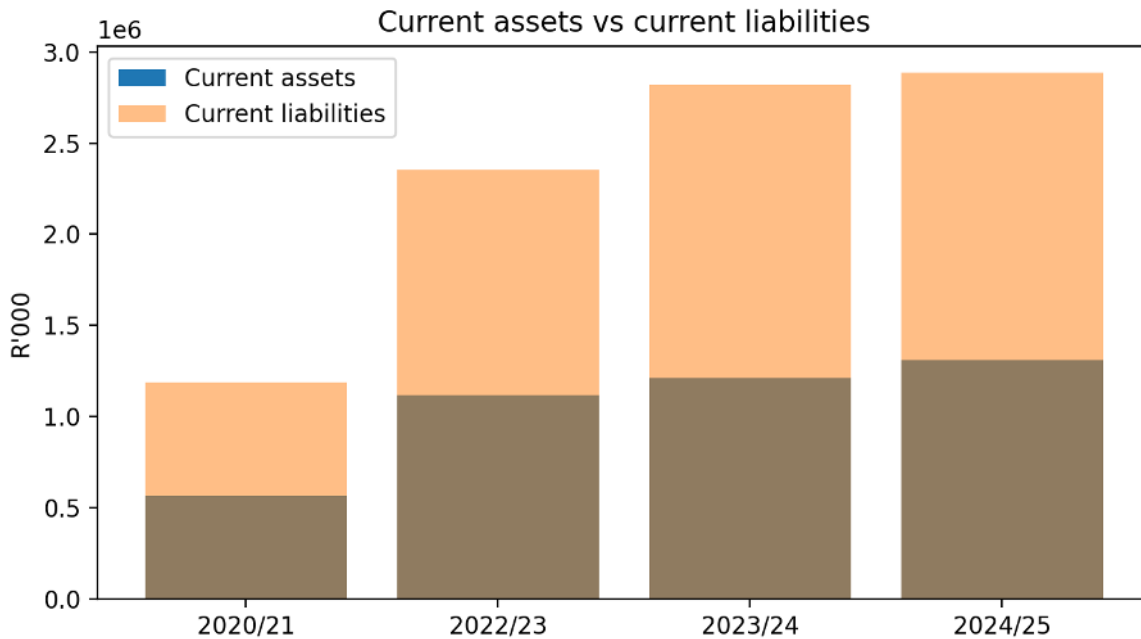
- Audit outcomes remained disclaimers through 2023/24, with no newer published clean or qualified turnaround identified.
- Total revenue excluding capital transfers increased from R405.68 million in 2023/24 to R455.02 million in 2024/25, an increase of 12.2%.
- Total expenditure increased from R685.06 million to R689.01 million over the same period, meaning expenditure still significantly exceeded revenue.
- The operating deficit improved from R279.38 million in 2023/24 to R233.99 million in 2024/25, but the municipality remains deep in deficit.
- Employee costs increased from R300.54 million to R326.69 million in 2024/25 and represented about 71.8% of operating revenue in that year.
- Current assets stood at R1.311 billion while current liabilities stood at R2.889 billion in 2024/25, leaving an estimated current ratio of only 0.45.
- Capital expenditure rose from R122.80 million in 2023/24 to R140.97 million in 2024/25, which is positive, but this has not yet translated into visible relief in several service-delivery areas raised by the community.

Figure 1. Revenue versus expenditure (R'000)



Based on Ditsobotla financial results for 2020/21, 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Figure 2. Current assets versus current liabilities (R'000)



Liquidity remains weak in every published year shown.

3. Basic services: where conditions improved and where they worsened

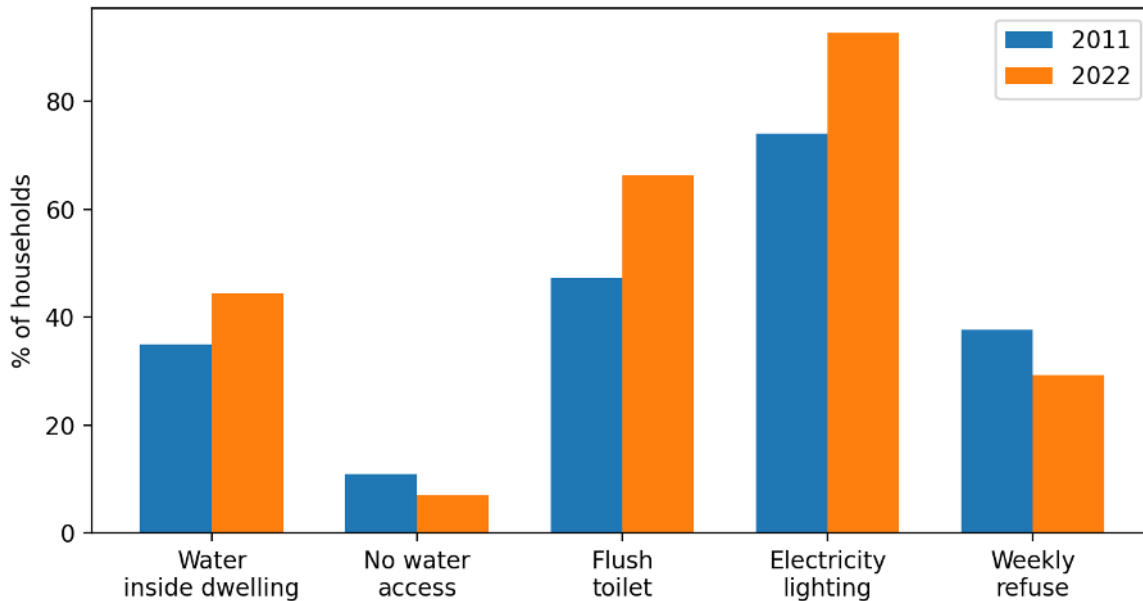
The longer-term service-access picture is mixed. Some indicators improved materially between 2011 and 2022, but refuse removal worsened and the municipality's own 2025/2026 IDP confirms ongoing operational failures in water, electricity and waste services.

Indicator	2011	2022	Change	Assessment
Piped water inside dwelling	34.9%	44.5%	+9.6 pp	Improved
Households with no access to water	10.9%	7.0%	-3.9 pp	Improved
Flush toilet connected to sewerage	47.3%	66.3%	+19.0 pp	Improved
Electricity for lighting	74.0%	92.7%	+18.7 pp	Improved
Weekly refuse removal by local authority	37.6%	29.3%	-8.3 pp	Worsened

Source: Stats SA Census comparisons as reproduced in the Ditsobotla 2025/2026 IDP and municipal directory tables.

Figure 3. Household service access comparison

Household service access: 2011 vs 2022



Although water, sanitation and electricity access improved between 2011 and 2022, refuse removal moved in the opposite direction.

4. Specific commentary on community concerns

4.1 Water supply and water infrastructure

- The adopted 2025/2026 IDP records that water supply is erratic and unreliable across all schemes, with consumers experiencing low pressure or no water at all.
- The IDP states that the Coligny scheme has 26 boreholes of which only 6 are operational, while the Itsoseng scheme has 14 boreholes of which 11 are operational.
- The municipality itself admits that old asbestos pipes are prone to leaks and that the current infrastructure does not cope with the growing population.
- This means the community's earlier concerns about leakages, insufficient pressure, delayed repairs and lack of major upgrades remain substantially valid.

4.2 Sanitation and sewer infrastructure

- The municipality's own IDP confirms that the sewer network is outdated, uses small pipes and suffers leakages due to pressure and limited capacity.
- The IDP further notes that in some township areas there are no sewer networks, while rubbish disposed into the sewer system damages the plant at high cost and risk.
- Although access to flush toilets improved statistically, the operational infrastructure remains fragile and requires planned replacement and maintenance.

4.3 Roads and electricity infrastructure

- The IDP records that electricity infrastructure in Lichtenburg and Coligny urgently needs upgrading.
- Sub-station transformers are reported as overloaded at about 95% to 100% capacity, with immediate commercial demand estimated at approximately 3 900 kVA.
- High-tension cable feeders are inadequate, underground cables have been in service for more than 40 years, and streetlights are between 35 and 50 years old.

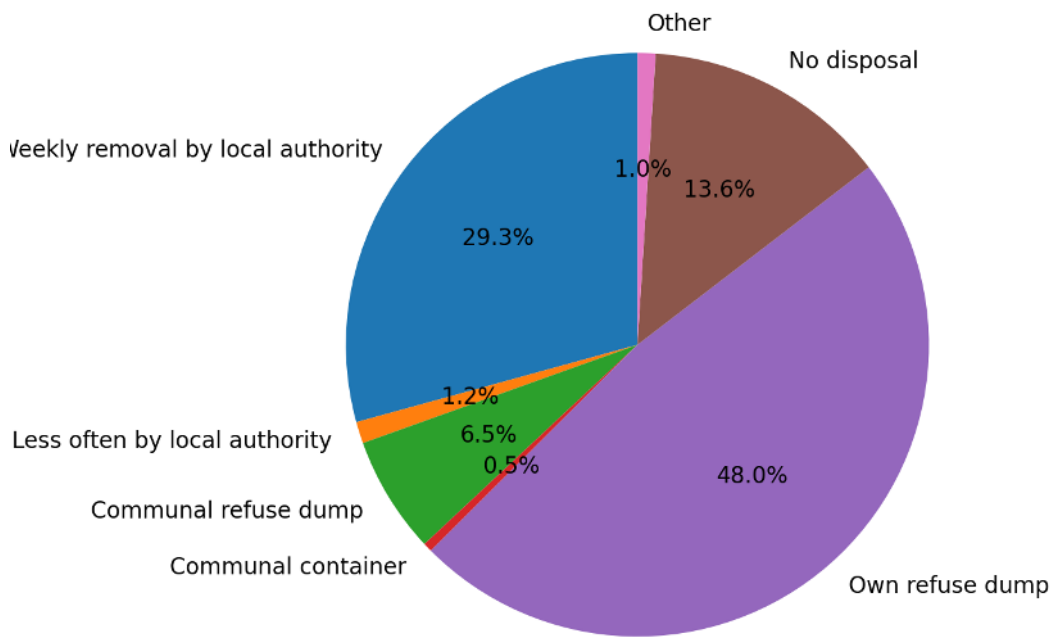
- In practical terms, this supports the community's earlier complaint that core infrastructure is ageing faster than it is being renewed.

4.4 Refuse removal and landfill management

- The IDP states that the municipal waste collection service is provided by only two compactor trucks, with capacities of 12m³ and 10m³ respectively.
- Only 29.3% of households had their waste removed by the local authority at least once a week in 2022, while 48.0% used own refuse dumps and 13.6% had no rubbish disposal service.
- The IDP states plainly that the operational Lichtenburg landfill does not meet minimum requirements and operates as a dumpsite.
- It also records that the landfill is not fenced, access is uncontrolled, there are no groundwater monitoring boreholes, reclaimers do not have PPE, and the waste-management fleet is broken down.
- These findings strongly confirm the concerns previously raised regarding illegal dumping, weak refuse removal and poor landfill conditions.

Figure 4. Refuse removal profile in Ditsobotla (2022)

Refuse removal profile (2022)



Refuse-removal coverage is weak, with own dumping and no disposal making up the majority of outcomes outside formal municipal weekly collection.

5. Tariffs and affordability

- The approved 2025/2026 tariffs record a proposed 10% electricity increase.
- Water tariffs increased by 4.3%.
- Refuse-removal charges increased by 4.3%, with residential 240-litre refuse removal increasing from R132 to R138 per month.
- Where tariffs increase while service reliability remains weak, the municipality should be required to show how added revenue is being ring-fenced for maintenance, fleet renewal, leak repairs, substations and other core service infrastructure.

The following concerns were identified by the Community within Lichtenburg and Coligny;

Lichtenburg

1. Roads

a. Poor conditions of roads

Many roads in Lichtenburg are in a shockingly bad condition. Due to all the potholes, the roads are unsafe for motorists, causing serious damage to their cars (mainly tyres and rims).

This issue needs to be addressed as soon as possible by the municipality and they need to start fixing and upgrading the roads.

It is of utmost importance that the municipality budget accordingly in the new financial year and allocate sufficient funds to fix potholes and upgrade the roads.

Some of the main roads that need urgent attention are as follows:

- 1ste street between 8th avenue and 14 avenue
- Bantjes street between Kerk street and Dr Nelson Mandela drive.
- 12th avenue. The road is completely full of potholes and almost undriveable

b. Road signs

There is little or no lines and arrows on the roads in Lichtenburg. It is very dangerous seeing as people do not know where to drive. The lines on speed humps are also not visible. Motorists do not see the humps and damage their cars.

Some of the main roads that need urgent attention are as follows:

- 27 Burger street, the corner is missing a stop sign and will likely cause an accident
- Dr Nelson Mandela Drive, has no lines to indicate where to drive

The municipality should budget for paint and labour so that at least the main roads receive attention.

2. Water

Access to water is a human right and daily necessity. The municipality must ensure that they have all the necessary measures in place to always be able to provide water to the residents of Lichtenburg.

The problem relates to:

- The municipality takes weeks to months to fix water leakages reported by residents.
- The municipality has not done any large upgrade to the water system. Old water pipes burst easily due to the pipes not being designed to handle the new high water pressure.
- The poorly maintained waterlines in Lichtenburg

- Pumpstations are not working adequately, which causes low water pressure. This means that households in the high-lying areas do not get sufficient water.

An solution would be to establish emergency water trucks to alleviate the need for water shortages, also to do proper maintenance of the borehole pumps.

We therefore request the municipality to use the IDP process to address this problem, by allocating sufficient funds to upgrade the water systems. Moreover, the costs associated with the necessary tools and vehicles to transport the workers to the jobs must be prioritised in the budget.

3. Cleansing

a. Illegal dumping

The following areas are regularly plagued by illegal dumping:

- Lichtenburg Taxi rank
- 30 Burger street

Due to the failure of the municipality to remove this trash, it consumes the vacant land and pollutes the area. Moreover, it is also a very big health hazard as it attracts rats and mice to the area.

We request that the municipality use the IDP process to budget and allocate funds to:

- Put up a sign stating that illegal dumping is not permitted, and wrongdoers will be prosecuted.
- Put up short wooden poles that will prevent people from driving into the area with their cars to dump their garbage.
- Implement bylaws.
 - The Local Government Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000) furthermore requires waste management services to be provided to all local communities in a financially and environmentally responsible manner to promote the accessibility of basic services and sustainable waste management.

b. Landfill sites:

The landfill sites in Lichtenburg are in extremely poor condition and pose major risks to the environment, as well as the health of the community. These issues include:

1. Security and access control are inadequate and/or non-existent because the site is not enclosed with a proper fence.

2. Signage surrounding the landfill sites is inadequate and/or non-existent.
3. Refuse is not covered with soil on a daily basis and unpleasant odours arise from the landfill site.
4. The health and safety of the community are in jeopardy, as fires are started at the landfill sites.
5. There are several reclaimers at the landfill sites. They are allowed to reclaim waste without a proper plan, and their employment is in contravention of applicable labour legislation. This leads to fears about their health and safety, as well as that of other people in the area.
6. Spontaneous combustion and fires occur on the site.
7. Refuse is being dumped outside the landfill sites.

If left untreated, waste that is produced by any urban community not only becomes an aesthetic problem, but also poses serious health risks. This can be aggravated if the waste contains hazardous materials. Very often such environmental injustices are unfairly borne by those in society who do not have the means to do anything about it, as is the case in Lichtenburg.

The present situation at the Lichtenburg landfill site is unacceptable. AfriForum wishes to engage with the Ditsobotla Municipality on how the present situation came to be and what measures, if any, the Municipality proposes to implement to ensure that this situation is rectified as soon as possible.

To put it simple we don't have a landfill site, only a large illegal dumping site

c. Refuse removal

We have received various complaints that the municipality does not regularly remove refuse. People subsequently dump their refuse illegally on vacant land, which causes pollution, as well as blockages in stormwater drains.

We therefore request that the municipality use the IDP process to identify the reason why refuse removal is not being done, but to also plan and budget accordingly in order to purchase all the necessary equipment needed to deliver these services.

We have learned that the reason for the faulty refuse removal in town is due to:

- Lack of refuse removal trucks

Furthermore, the municipality should implement the requisite bylaws to address the illegal dumping of rubbish.

Coligny

1. Roads

a. Poor conditions of roads

Many roads in NW Coligny are in a shockingly bad condition. Due to all the potholes, the roads are unsafe for motorists that incur serious damage to their cars (mainly tyres and rims).

This issue needs to be addressed as soon as possible by the municipality and they need to start fixing and upgrading the roads.

It is of utmost importance that the municipality budget accordingly in the new financial year and allocate sufficient funds to fix potholes and upgrade the roads.

Some of the main roads that need urgent attention are as follows:

- Voortrekker str
- All the roads needs maintenance

b. Road signs

There is little or no lines and arrows on the roads in Coligny. It is very dangerous seeing as people do not know where to drive. The lines on speed humps are also not visible. Motorists do not see the humps and damage their cars.

Some of the main roads that need urgent attention are as follows:

- All the roads need maintenance

The municipality should budget for paint and labour so that at least the main roads receive attention.

2. Parks

We have received the following complaints in relation to parks .The parks that require urgent attention are as follows:

- The entrances to Coligny need attention

The problems in these parks include the following:

- The grass never gets cut
- Lots of papers, plastic and bottles are scattered around the park
- No bins in the park
- Homeless people sleeping in the park, causing a safety hazard

We request that the municipality use the IDP process to:

- Draft a proper schedule for regular cleaning of the parks
- Allocate the necessary funds to place bins in the parks
- Put up streetlights near the parks to improve visibility
- Plant short wooden poles to prevent people from driving into the parks.

3. Water

Access to water is a human right and daily necessity. The municipality must ensure that they have all the necessary measures in place to always be able to provide water to the residents of Coligny.

The problem relates to:

- The municipality takes weeks to months to fix water leakages reported by residents.
- The municipality has not done any large upgrade to the water system in (NW Coligny). Old water pipes burst easily due to the pipes not being designed to handle the new high water pressure.
- The poorly maintained waterlines in (NW Coligny)
- Reservoirs at (NW Coligny) are too small to serve the area.
- Pumpstations (No names 17 pump stations on farms average 2 pumps operational) are not working adequately and cause low water pressure. This means that households in the high-lying areas do not get sufficient water.
- Water quality .(High risk)

We therefore request the municipality to use the IDP process to address this problem, by allocating sufficient funds to upgrade the water systems. Moreover, the costs associated with the necessary tools and vehicles to transport the workers to the jobs must be prioritised in the budget.

4. Sewerage problems

We have received complaints regarding that the pumpstations (no names on farms) are not functioning adequately or not at all. This means that the raw sewerage is not processed by the sewerage plant and if the pumps are out of order for a few hours the raw sewerage starts overflowing into the streets/ water streams/river/dam/wetland area/parks.

Pollution of natural resources is a criminal offence and because of this, we strongly advise that this problem gets resolved before it becomes serious.

AfriForum therefore requests your urgent attention to this matter as illegal dumping of sewage is a criminal offense. Section 28 of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 states that reasonable measures must be taken to prevent pollution from occurring, continuing or recurring. Section 28(8) provides for authorities to recover any costs as a result thereof acting under Section 28(7) of the Act from any or all of the following persons:

- Any person who is or was responsible for, or who directly or indirectly contributed to, the pollution or degradation or the potential pollution or degradation;
- The owner of the land at the time;
- The person in control of that land; and/or
- Any person who negligently failed to prevent 1) the activity, or 2) the situation from coming about.

In such instances, the SAPS, the Environmental Management Inspectorate (Green Scorpions) or the Water Management Inspectorate (Blue Scorpions) may investigate the charges and decide whether or not to refer the matter to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to prosecute the relevant organ of state or its employee/s.

Section 16(1) provides that a holder of waste must, within that holder's power, take all reasonable measures to –

- Avoid the generation of waste and where such generation cannot be avoided, to minimize the toxicity and amounts of waste that are generated;
- Where waste must be disposed of, ensure that the waste is treated and disposed of in an environmentally-sound manner;
- Manage the waste in such a manner that it does not endanger health or the environment, or cause a nuisance through noise, odor or visual impacts; and
- Prevent any employee or any person under his or her supervision from contravening the Act.

5. Cleansing

a. Illegal dumping

The following areas are regularly plagued by illegal dumping:

- Illegal dumping at entrance of dumping site.

Due to the failure by the municipality to remove this trash, it consumes the vacant land and pollutes the area. Moreover, it is also a very big health hazard as it attracts rats and mice to the area.

We request that the municipality use the IDP process to budget and allocate funds to:

- Put up a sign stating that illegal dumping is not permitted, and wrongdoers will be prosecuted.
- Put up short wooden poles that will prevent people from driving into the area with their cars to dump their garbage.
- Implement bylaws.

b. Landfill sites:

The landfill sites in (NW Coligny) are in extremely poor condition and pose major risks to the environment, as well as the health of the community. These issues include:

1. Security and access control are inadequate and/or non-existent because the site is not enclosed with a proper fence.
2. Signage surrounding the landfill sites is inadequate and/or non-existent.
3. Refuse is not covered with soil on a daily basis and unpleasant odours arise from the landfill site.
4. The health and safety of the community are in jeopardy, as fires are started at the landfill sites.
5. There are several reclaimers at the landfill sites. They are allowed to reclaim waste without a proper plan, and their employment is in contravention of applicable labour legislation. This leads to fears about their health and safety, as well as that of other people in the area.
6. Spontaneous combustion and fires occur on the site.
7. Refuse is being dumped outside the landfill sites.

If left untreated, waste that is produced by any urban community not only becomes an aesthetic problem, but also poses serious health risks. This can be aggravated if the waste contains hazardous materials. Very often such environmental injustices are unfairly borne by those in society who do not have the means to do anything about it, as is the case in (NW Coligny).

The present situation at the (NW Coligny) landfill sites is unacceptable. AfriForum wishes to engage with the Ditsobotla Municipality on how the present situation came to be and what measures, if any, the Municipality proposes to implement to ensure that this situation is rectified as soon as possible.

c. Refuse removal

We have received various complaints that the municipality does not regularly remove refuse. People subsequently dump their refuse illegally on vacant land and pollution, as well as blockages in stormwater drains, are caused by the ever-present rubbish.

We therefore request that the municipality use the IDP process to identify the reason why refuse removal is not being done, but to also plan and budget accordingly in order to purchase all the necessary equipment needed to deliver these services.

We have learned that the reason for the faulty refuse removal in town is due to:

- Lack of refuse removal trucks
- Staff not showing up work
- No service from municipality we do it our self.

Furthermore, the municipality should implement the requisite bylaws to address the illegal dumping of rubbish.

6. Cemeteries

We have received the following complaints regarding the (Coligny) cemetery:

- The fence around the cemetery/ies are damaged
- (Coligny) cemetery is unsafe for people visiting their loved ones' graves due to the homeless people living in the cemetery/ the fact that there isn't any access control at the cemetery.
- The grass and gardens at the cemetery are not sufficiently maintained.

We request that the municipality set monies aside during this budget process to put up a proper fence/ ensure that the grass and gardens are maintained regularly/ to implement better safety measures at the cemetery/ relocate the homeless people living at the cemetery.

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• **Registration number:** 2005/042861/08 • **NGO number:** 054 - 590