

# Please give us safe sanitation after the elections



Newly installed toilets at Bossiesgif, Bitou

**Asivikelane Western Cape #7** paints a worrying picture of the fear and anxiety that residents experience daily when using toilets in informal settlements. Almost 80% of residents said that they did not feel safe when using the shared toilets provided by their municipality.

South Africans go to the polls on 1 November to elect the next cohort of local government leaders. According to the IEC, 12 000 candidates will be contesting 844 council seats available across all Western Cape municipalities. Whilst residents are being bombarded with campaign promises and political rhetoric, what they really need is for local government leaders to listen to them. **Through Asivikelane, residents are sending a clear message – their communities are not safe, the shared toilets are dirty and poorly located and the lack of public lighting puts them at risk of being assaulted.**

Local government leaders can change all of this by prioritizing safe sanitation. They can start by providing clean toilets that are closer to homes, placing lights in the toilets and installing sufficient public lighting in the settlements. These practical measures can save lives and they are well-within the scope of local government's mandate and budgets.

## GOOD NEWS ✓

- Residents in **Qolweni** and **Bossiesgif** (Bitou Municipality) have indicated that since the Asivikelane Initiative was launched in their communities, the municipality has installed several additional toilets in the area.
- In the last month, the percentage of residents who reported that the municipality drained the chemical toilets in the last 7 days, more than doubled from 38% to 79%. In **George** it was 82%, 80% in **Knysna** and 100% in **Stellenbosch**.
- In **Mossel Bay**, residents are responsible for cleaning their toilets with more than 50% indicating that they receive assistance from the Community Work Programme.

## HOT SPOTS ✗

- In **Bitou** municipality, many residents indicated the high prevalence of people addicted to the Nyaope drug (also known as *whoonga* or *wunga*) as being a leading factor contributing to their fear of using taps and toilets at night. Insufficient public lighting places residents at high risk of being assaulted or even murdered.
- In **Cape Agulhas**, 25% of residents had no access to a toilet.
- 62% of residents across all municipalities indicated that the municipality did not clean the toilet in the last 7 days.
- 97% of **Knysna** residents and 92% of **Stellenbosch** residents say they feel unsafe using toilets at night.

**261 residents from across 7 municipalities in 45 informal settlements participated in this round.** Detailed results and comments from residents themselves are available at [www.asivikelane.org/western-cape-releases](http://www.asivikelane.org/western-cape-releases). For more information please contact: [dag@dag.org.za](mailto:dag@dag.org.za) Facebook: [@developmentactiongroup](https://www.facebook.com/developmentactiongroup) Twitter: [@DAG\\_activism](https://twitter.com/DAG_activism) Instagram: [@developmentactiongroup](https://www.instagram.com/developmentactiongroup) website: [www.dag.org.za](http://www.dag.org.za) Find Asivikelane across social media on: [@Asivikelane](https://www.facebook.com/Asivikelane) [@Asivikelane](https://www.instagram.com/Asivikelane) [Asivikelane](https://www.youtube.com/Asivikelane)

