



# WITZENBERG NEWS

Municipality • Munisipaliteit • U Masipala Wase

*A municipality that cares for its community, creating growth and opportunity!*

*May - June 2025*



**Executive Mayor  
Cllr Trevor Abrahams**

## From the Mayor's Desk

Good day Residents

What a hectic past few months and weeks we have had with all the public holidays, long weekends and short work weeks and days. Tired just thinking about it. But as much as we all enjoyed it and spent valuable time with loved ones over this period, all good things must come to an end. Still, we have been working non-stop behind the scenes, continuing with the business of the day to ensure uninterrupted service delivery to all.

The draft municipal Budget and Integrated Development Plan (IDP) review process have served before council, after which a public participation process followed with public meetings in all towns and areas recently. This is but one of the important matters we are busy with. All inputs and comments have been processed and the final budget will be tabled before council by the end of May, and must be approved before the new financial year starts on 1 July 2025.

The Tulbagh water quality and filters project is progressing well, with all the new filters that are fully operational. The filters are being monitored and any issues that may arise, addressed. We are also busy with a new multimillion rand pipeline project to secure the water supply to Wolseley town and surrounding areas. We anticipate that this project will be finalised by 30 June 2025. Regular updates in this regard are provided on our Facebook page and on WRFM.

I would like to encourage residents to make use of our official channels to communicate with us. Kindly email us your details, comments and/or complaints, or call our 24-hr Control Room on 023 492 0181/2 or send a WhatsApp message to 081 896 5480 to report an emergency and or service delivery issues. Together we can do and achieve so much more! Till next time.

### Contact Us



**EMERGENCY 023 492 0181 / 2**



**023 316 1854 (Switchboard)**



**081 896 5480**



**admin@witzenberg.gov.za**



**Witzenberg Municipality - Official**



**www.witzenberg.gov.za**



**CERES GOES GREEN FOR EARTH DAY:** Over 50 community members showed up on Earth Day (22 April) for the launch (Phase 1) of a new Environmental Project in Ceres, with a successful clean-up along the Dwars River bank. Various roleplayers participated in the clean-up, including, Witzenberg Municipality, Cape Winelands District Municipality, the Ceres Tourism Bureau, Friends of the Togrers Museum, learners from Wanganella Ngk Primer Skool and the Ceres Business Initiative (CBI). A total of 85 refuge bags were collected on the day. See the poster on page 3 for more details on the next two phases of the Environmental Project.



**For municipal updates and news**

**'Like' us on Facebook**





# Witzenberg Municipality Draft Budget 2025/2026

The Witzenberg Community is encouraged to apply for the bellow benefits given and proposed by council. This will definitely contribute to the social upliftment of our citizens.

We also encourage our Eskom supply (Op-Die-Berg and Prince Alfred Hamlet) areas to ensure that they receive the benefits.

## Indigent Benefits - Proposed Amendment

Home owners with a combined income of less than R5 000 per month may qualify:

- rebate sewerage
- rebate refuse removal
- rebate on water basic charge
- 50 kwh electricity free
- 10 kl of water free

## Other Benefits - Proposed Amendment

Home owners with a combined income more then R5 000 but less then R6 000 month may qualify:

- 50% rebate sewerage
- 50% rebate refuse removal
- 50% rebate on water basic charge
- 25 kwh electricity free
- 5 kl of water free

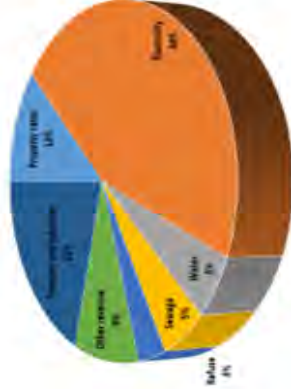
## Pensioners benefits

- 10kl free water units to pensioners
- Property tax discount to pensioners

## Budget at a Glance:

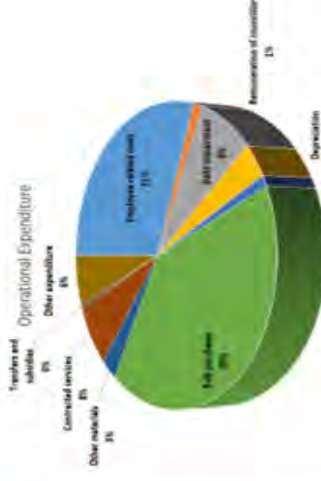
- Tariffs have been increased in line with budgeted increases on major cost components such as Electricity Bulk Purchases and Salaries and Wages.
- Water +5%, Property Rates Revenue 8%, Sanitation +5%, Refuse Removal +5%
- The first 150 000 value of certain properties remains exempt from property rates.
- An electricity tariff study was undertaken by the Municipality and it is proposed that the tariffs be implemented as from 1 July 2025, subject to the approval and guidance by NERSA.
- Bulk purchases from Eskom to increase with 11.32%

Revenue By Source



## Revenue by source:

The operational income budget for the 2025/2026 financial year totals R1.009 billion, of which R210 million is from capital and operational grants.



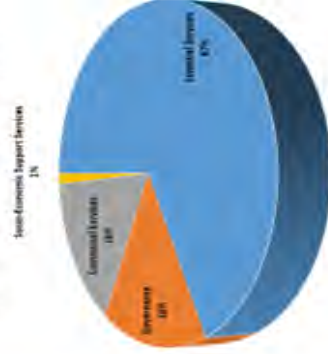
## Expenditure:

The operational expenditure budget for the 2025/2026 financial year equates to R1.002 billion, of which R916 million is financed from the revenue generated by the municipality. The rest of the operational budget is financed from grant funding received from government entities

## Capital Budget

The Capital Budget for the 2025/2026 financial year is R79 million, of which R34.5million is from revenue generated by the municipality. Furthermore the rest of the capital budget is financed from grant funding received from government as well as a loan for the upgrade of electricity infrastructure.

Total Expenditure linked to performance areas



<b>Electricity</b> Tariffs increase by 11,32% for residential, commercial and industrial consumers Operational spend R428 mil Capital Investment R23 mil	<b>Roads</b> Operational Spend R21 mil Capital Investment R16 mil
<b>Refuse Removal</b> Tariffs increase by 5% Operational spend R91 mil Capital Investment R1 mil	<b>Housing</b> Operational Spend R9 mil
<b>Sanitation</b> Tariffs increase by 5% Operational spend R51 mil Capital Investment R2 mil	<b>Water</b> Tariffs increase by 5%, Operational spend R61 mil & Capital Investment R13 mil
<b>Administration</b> Operational Spend R179 mil Capital Investment R3 mil	<b>Property rates</b> Tariff increase by 5% Tariffs to be determined by actual use of property
<b>Public Safety</b> Operational Spend R67 mil Capital Spend R1 mil	<b>Community Services</b> Operational Spend R97 mil Capital Investment R19 mil





## MAYORAL FUND BURSARIES AWARDED TO 16 WITZENBERG STUDENTS

Witzenberg Municipality in May awarded 16 bright and ambitious students with bursaries from the Mayoral Bursary Fund, personally handed over by Executive Mayor, Cllr Trevor Abrahams, to the students and parents in Ceres. All of the students will be pursuing studies at accredited South African academic institutions.

As per the Mayoral Bursary Fund Policy, students must meet the prescribed requirements of the academic institution and the Mayoral Bursary Fund Policy; Must be a resident within the area of jurisdiction of the Witzenberg Municipality, with the exception of children; Bursaries may be awarded to children of employees in the service of the Witzenberg Municipality; May be awarded to students with due regard to the Employment Equity Act, Skills Development Act,

LGSETA guidelines on scarce skills, people with disabilities and other relevant legislative arrangements, and any other factors as may be determined by the Council. In order to ensure efficiency and transparency, a Bursary Committee had been established.

The Mayoral Bursary Fund is more than just financial support, it is an investment in the dreams, potential, and future of our youth. This initiative ensures that development, especially amongst young people, continues to meet the growing demand for skilled services, improved quality of life, and a thriving society. Note that bursaries in terms of the Mayoral Bursary Fund is advertised and awarded annually. Congratulations to all the student recipients! We wish you great success in your future studies.

### WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE FUND?

- ✓ 100% South African owned spaza shops
- ✓ Operates in a township or rural area
- ✓ Registered with the local municipality
- ✓ Active owner management

**Apply Now: [www.spazashopfund.co.za](http://www.spazashopfund.co.za)**

small business development bank

the dtic

NATIONAL EMPOWERMENT FUND

SEDFA

Priority is given to:

- Youth (18-35)
- Women
- People living with Disabilities

## JOIN THE MOVEMENT FOR A CLEANER CERES

# Clean, Recycle and Plant

We're excited to launch our Environmental Project in partnership with Witzenberg Municipality, Cape Winelands District Municipality, Ceres Toggryers Museum & Friends and Ceres Tourism Bureau focusing on three key phases: cleaning, recycling, and planting trees to create a cleaner, greener Ceres.

PHASE: 1	PHASE: 2	PHASE: 3	JOIN OUR COMMUNITY
<b>EARTH DAY</b> (22 APRIL 2025)	<b>WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY</b> (05 JUNE 2025)	<b>NATIONAL ARBOR DAY</b> (04 SEPTEMBER 2025)	<b>HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kick off project with Community cleanup on Earth Day</li> <li>• Other cleanup Initiatives</li> <li>• Awareness on working together to start creating a cleaner, greener Ceres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exhibitions</li> <li>• Recycling awareness Campaigns</li> <li>• Encouraging everyone to visit the local MRF</li> <li>• Inspiring active participation in recycling efforts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planting trees in selected public spaces around Ceres</li> <li>• Help to beautify our environment</li> <li>• Promote sustainability</li> <li>• Grow indigenous</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in cleaning and recycling campaigns</li> <li>• Help plant trees</li> <li>• Spread awareness on social media</li> <li>• Volunteer with us</li> <li>• Keep your own area clean</li> </ul>

Follow us for updates: Ceres'ly Positive on Facebook  
 Contact us: 023 316 1287 or email: [info@ceres.org.za](mailto:info@ceres.org.za)

CAPE WINELANDS DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

WITZENBERG MUNICIPALITY

ceres

# THUSONG SERVICES CENTRE

**Do you know about Thusong Centres?**  
 They're one-stop shops that bring government services such as grants and other essential applications, closer to the people that need them most.

WITZENBERG MUNICIPALITY

home affairs

SASSA

social development

023 3155017/21

023 3485300/11  
023 3158003

023 3156855 / 023 8142740

Thusong Centre Coordinator  
023 315 6240  
[info@witzenberg.gov.za](mailto:info@witzenberg.gov.za)

3 Panorama Rd.  
Bella Vista,  
CERES, 6835

\* Municipal Councillor on call.

More details: [www.witzenberg.gov.za/government/publications/thusong-centres](http://www.witzenberg.gov.za/government/publications/thusong-centres)



## Welcome to Mr. Seon Swartz Director: Community Services



• Mr. Swartz has more than 33 years of local government experience includes serving in different municipalities, such as Stellenbosch, Langeberg, Bergvliet, Breede Valley and Overstrand.

• Prior to his appointment at Overstrand, he was employed as the Director of Community Services at Breede Valley Municipality for six years, where he was responsible for more than 500 employees in the Directorate and ten managers directly reporting to him.

• Swartz holds various Traffic, Fire and Law Enforcement related qualifications and obtained his Honours Degree in Public Administration at the University of South Africa (Unisa) in 2007. He also completed various short courses with five different universities and is a qualified Mediator.



## Licence Card printing machine back online

The National Department of Transport announced at the beginning of May that the national driving licence card printing machine is back online. This will hopefully bring much-needed relief to thousands of motorists across the Western Cape and country who have been waiting patiently for their cards. However, it is to be noted that there will be a massive backlog in printing new cards to work through. As of 2 May 2025, the Western Cape had a backlog of 108 402 outstanding driving licence cards, which formed part of the national total of 747 748 that built up during the three-month period that the machine was out of order.

All we can do now is trust that the national department will move swiftly and efficiently to clear the backlog without any further issues. We would like to thank our residents for their patience and understanding in terms of the delay and backlog. We will inform all per SMS as soon as we start receiving the printed driving licence cards.



## Pay Your Municipal Account!

Municipalities need a reliable source of revenue to provide basic services to all. It is important to pay your municipal account on time and in full. **AVOID** penalties, disconnection, debt! You **CAN** make a payment arrangement if in arrears.

### BASIC MUNICIPAL SERVICES:

- Electricity
- Water supply
- Sewage collection + disposal
- Refuse removal
- Street lighting
- Law Enforcement
- Construction
- Roads + Sidewalks
- Drainage
- Facilities
- Buildings
- Parks
- Recreational facilities
- Cemeteries
- Libraries
- Administration
- Finance

### PAYMENT METHODS:

CASH - CARD - EFT  
SCAN - EASYPAY - RETAILERS

### BANKING DETAILS:

NAME OF ACCOUNT:  
WITZENBERG MUNICIPALITY  
NAME OF BANK:  
FIRST NATIONAL BANK  
BRANCH CODE: 200107  
ACCOUNT NUMBER:  
627 482 18444

EST 2001  
**TULBAGH CHRISTMAS IN WINTER**  
27-29 JUNE 2025  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
AGULA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE, KLM ROYAL DUTCH AIRLINES,  
FIRST NATIONAL BANK AND WITZENBERG MUNICIPALITY

**JOIN US FOR A JOLLY TIME IN TULBAGH**

OUR LOCALS PUT ON THEIR CHRISTMAS HATS,  
OUR WINE FARMS POP OPEN THEIR BOTTLES  
AND WE WELCOME THOUSANDS OF VISITORS  
TO OUR VALLEY

EST 2001  
**TULBAGH CHRISTMAS IN WINTER**  
27-29 JUNE 2025

**FRIDAY 27TH 6PM - 10PM**  
**'SPARKLE & SHINE NIGHT'**

- FARMERS ELECTRIC LIGHT PARADE
- CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH-ON
- FULL ARTISANAL CRAFT MARKET & FOOD VENDORS UNDER CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
- FESTIVAL BAR & GLUHWEIN SHACK
- LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

**SATURDAY 28TH 10AM - 10PM**  
**'WINE, DINE & BE MERRY DAY'**

- WINE TASTING
- FESTIVAL BARS & GLUHWEIN SHACK
- KIDZ WINTER WONDERLAND
- LIVE MUSIC & STREET ENTERTAINMENT
- ARTISANAL CRAFT MARKET & FOOD VENDORS
- PRIZES, GIVEAWAYS, COMPETITIONS
- SHUTTLE SERVICE TO WINE FARMS

**SUNDAY 29TH 10AM - 3PM**  
**'DEFROST DAY'**

- WINE TASTING
- LAMB-SPIT
- GLUHWEIN RECOVERY, MIMOSA & BLOODY MARY SPECIALS
- KIDZ WINTER WONDERLAND
- KIDS CHRISTMAS ENCHANTED FOREST GAMES
- LIVE MUSIC & STREET ENTERTAINMENT
- ARTISANAL CRAFT MARKET & FOOD VENDORS

EST 2001  
**TULBAGH CHRISTMAS IN WINTER**  
27-29 JUNE 2025

### TICKET OPTIONS

<b>ALL WEEKEND TICKET</b> FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY R250	<b>WINE TASTING TICKET</b> R100
<b>DAY PASS TICKETS</b> FRIDAY R200 SATURDAY R200 SUNDAY R150	<b>KIDS UNDER 8 YEARS OLD FREE</b>
<b>KIDS 8-18 YEARS OLD TICKET</b> ALL-WEEKEND PASS R190 FRIDAY PASS R150 SATURDAY PASS R150 SUNDAY PASS R110	<b>PENSIONERS TICKET</b> ALL-WEEKEND PASS R225 FRIDAY PASS R180 SATURDAY PASS R180 SUNDAY PASS R135