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Grant funding well spent on municipal infrastructure and service delivery

Knysna Municipality has recorded strong expenditure on grant funding received from national government departments during the 2025/2026 financial year. According to Executive Mayor Thando Matika, the majority of grants were fully spent on infrastructure and service delivery projects.

“The expenditure report tabled before the Mayoral Committee on 15 September 2026 reflects significant progress in the utilisation of conditional grant funding allocated to the municipality,” he said.

Among the grants, the Water Services Infrastructure Grant recorded 100% expenditure of its R7 million allocation. The Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) recorded expenditure of R27.765 million against an allocation of R27.765 million, while two rollover MIG projects also recorded 100% expenditure.

The Neighbourhood Development Partnership Grant recorded expenditure of R14.552 million, representing 97% of its R15 million allocation. The report notes that the remaining amount relates to funding associated with a project overlapping into the 2026/2027 financial year.

The Integrated National Electrification Programme also recorded 100% expenditure of its R10 million allocation. The funding supported the Knysna Main Intake Substation Upgrade, with programmed materials deposited for manufacturing.

Water resilience funding was similarly fully utilised. The Water Resilience Grant recorded 100% expenditure on both its current allocation and rollover funding, supporting the optimisation of pump stations and the supply of pumps. The Municipal Energy Resilience Grant rollover allocation of R574 764 was also fully spent on the completion of a supply study in March 2026.

Matika welcomed the expenditure performance, saying it demonstrates the municipality's continued focus on converting available government funding into tangible infrastructure and service delivery outcomes.

“Grant funding is provided to municipalities for a purpose - to improve infrastructure, strengthen services and respond to the needs of our communities. It is therefore encouraging to see the extent to which these allocations have been utilised during the past financial year,” he said.

“We must continue to ensure that every rand available to the municipality is used responsibly and produces a meaningful benefit for our residents,” he continued. “The projects reflected in this report are not simply figures on a financial statement; they represent investment in water, electricity, roads and other infrastructure that communities depend on every day.”

The report also reflects projects that overlap into the 2026/2027 financial year, demonstrating that expenditure is being linked to ongoing infrastructure programmes rather than being viewed in isolation at the end of a financial year.

“We will continue strengthen the monitoring of grant-funded projects to ensure that implementation, expenditure and service delivery remain closely aligned,” Matika concluded. “Our responsibility is not only to spend grant funding, but to spend it properly and to ensure that the intended outcomes are achieved. We will also address implementation challenges where they arise and work with our government partners to maximise the value of the funding made available to Greater Knysna."

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