



Reference number: RCS/C.5

Private Bag X9165  
CAPE TOWN  
8000

## TREASURY CIRCULAR MUN NO. 9 OF 2025

THE MAYOR, CITY OF CAPE TOWN  
 THE MAYOR, WEST COAST DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, MATZIKAMA MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, CEDERBERG MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, BERGRIVIER MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, SALDANHA BAY MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, SWARTLAND MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, CAPE WINELANDS DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, WITZENBERG MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, DRAKENSTEIN MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, STELLENBOSCH MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, BREEDE VALLEY MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, LANGEBERG MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, OVERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, THEEWATERSKLOOF MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, CAPE AGULHAS MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, SWELLENDAM MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, GARDEN ROUTE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, KANNALAND MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, HESSEQUA MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, MOSSEL BAY MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, GEORGE MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, OUDTSHOORN MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, BITOU MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, KNYSNA MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, CENTRAL KAROO DISTRICT  
 THE MAYOR, LAINGSBURG MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, PRINCE ALBERT MUNICIPALITY  
 THE MAYOR, BEAUFORT WEST MUNICIPALITY

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 THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, WEST COAST DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY: MR D JOUBERT  
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 THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, CEDERBERG MUNICIPALITY: MR G MATTHYSE  
 THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, BERGRIVIER MUNICIPALITY: ADV H LINDE  
 THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, SALDANHA BAY MUNICIPALITY: MR H METTLER  
 THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, SWARTLAND MUNICIPALITY: MR J SCHOLTZ  
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 THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, LANGEBERG MUNICIPALITY: MR D LUBBE  
 THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, OVERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY: MR R BOSMAN  
 THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, THEEWATERSKLOOF MUNICIPALITY: MR W HENDRIKS  
 THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY: DR D O'NEILL  
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 THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, OUDTSHOORN MUNICIPALITY: MR M YEKANI  
 THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, BITOU MUNICIPALITY: MR V FELTON (ACTING)  
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 THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, CENTRAL KAROO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY: MR J PENXA  
 THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, LAINGSBURG MUNICIPALITY: MR J BOOYSEN  
 THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, PRINCE ALBERT MUNICIPALITY: ADV T GILMEE  
 THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, BEAUFORT WEST MUNICIPALITY: MR A MAKENDLANA (ACTING)

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THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DRAKENSTEIN MUNICIPALITY: MR B BROWN  
THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, STELLENBOSCH MUNICIPALITY: MR K CAROLUS  
THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, BREEDE VALLEY MUNICIPALITY: MR R ONTONG  
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THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, OVERSTRAND MUNICIPALITY: MR D LOUW (ACTING)  
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THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, OUDTSHOORN MUNICIPALITY: MR G DE JAGER  
THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, BITOU MUNICIPALITY: MR C MAPEYI  
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MASTER RECORDS OFFICIAL: BUSINESS INFORMATION AND DATA MANAGEMENT

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## **2025/26 TABLING AND PUBLICATION OF MUNICIPAL ECONOMIC REVIEW AND OUTLOOK (MERO) AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILES (SEP-LG): WESTERN CAPE**

### **1. PURPOSE**

To inform municipalities of the dates for the tabling and publication of the 2025/26 Municipal Economic Review and Outlook (MERO), as well as the release of the Socio-Economic Profiles for Western Cape municipalities.

## 2. BACKGROUND

The MERO is an annual research publication that provides a detailed overview of the Western Cape economy at a municipal and district level. Its primary aim is to present municipalities with reliable economic intelligence that strengthens planning, budgeting, and decision-making processes.

The MERO complements the Provincial Economic Review and Outlook (PERO) by focusing on localised trends, patterns, and developments within key economic sectors and regions. It further examines the linkages between these dynamics and labour market performance. This evidence-based analysis supports municipalities in formulating credible, sustainable, and responsive budgets while promoting an inclusive growth path across the Province.

In addition, the MERO provides the Western Cape Government with regional economic insights to inform and guide integrated planning and resource allocation. Each regional MERO report is intended to assist local government policy makers to:

- Understand recent and emerging economic performance;
- Identify opportunities and risks within their local economies; and
- Strengthen the economic rationale underpinning Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) and Local Economic Development (LED) strategies.

Complementary to the MERO, the Socio-Economic Profiles (SEP-LGs) provide municipalities with accessible data and analysis on population trends, health, education, crime, household income, poverty, and access to basic services. By highlighting growth sectors, demographic shifts, poverty dynamics, and investment opportunities, the SEP-LGs serve as a practical tool for:

- Evidence-driven IDPs, budgets, and sector plans;
- Identifying socio-economic backlogs and development priorities; and
- Facilitating meaningful engagement between municipalities, communities, and stakeholders.

Together, the MERO and SEP-LGs are released annually by Provincial Treasury to align with the municipal planning and budgeting cycle. Municipalities are encouraged to use these publications to inform their strategic and operational plans, ensuring that local economic development initiatives and service delivery interventions are rooted in sound evidence.

## 3. REVISED MERO AND SEP-LG DATES

This year, the Provincial Treasury has revised the publication and tabling schedule of the Municipal Economic Review and Outlook (MERO). Although the release dates are later than initially planned, they remain aligned with the municipal planning and budgeting cycle. The updated timelines for the publication and tabling of the MERO, as well as the release of the SEP-LGs, are as follows:

- Release of the Socio-Economic Profiles: 30 November 2025.
- Tabling and publication of MERO 2025/26: 12 February 2026.

#### 4. IMPLICATIONS OF LATER PUBLICATION AND TABLING OF MERO and SEP-LG 2025/26

##### Availability of Socio-Economic Data Ahead of Budgeting

The release of SEP-LGs by 30 November 2025 coincides with the second stage (strategizing) of the municipal budget process, which will enable municipalities to:

- Integrate socio-economic insights into their IDP reviews (which must be tabled by the end of March);
- Identify priority issues such as service delivery backlogs, poverty challenges, and demographic shifts; and
- Strengthen the evidence base for sectoral plans and budget allocations.

##### Alignment with the Municipal Planning and Budget Cycle

- The tabling of the MERO scheduled for 12 February 2026 coincides with the 3<sup>rd</sup> stage (preparation) of the municipal budget process, prior to the tabling of draft budgets by the end of March 2026.
- Municipalities will therefore be able to incorporate the latest economic outlook and sector trends when refining their annual budgets, Integrated Development Plans, and Local Economic Development strategies and municipal policies.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

The MERO and SEP-LGs remain critical tools in strengthening the evidence base for municipal planning, budgeting, and service delivery. Municipalities are therefore encouraged to:

- Utilise the SEP-LGs during the strategizing phase of the municipal budget process to inform IDP reviews, identify socio-economic backlogs, and set development priorities early in the planning process; and
- Apply the findings of the MERO during the preparation phase of the municipal budget process to refine budgets, strengthen LED strategies, and ensure that policy decisions are informed by the most up-to-date economic intelligence.

The Provincial Treasury remains committed to supporting municipalities in interpreting and applying the insights from these publications to ensure credible, responsive, and sustainable planning and budgeting outcomes.

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**MALCOLM BOOYSEN**  
**ACTING CHIEF DIRECTOR: PUBLIC POLICY SERVICES**