

FREE GUIDE

Guide 3 of 4

How to Create Your First Budget in 30 Minutes

A simple, practical, South African guide — no spreadsheets required

Written by Chuma Afika Mlinjana — FMVA® · Founder, Mlinjana Financial Group

Most people never create a budget because they think it requires a spreadsheet, a finance degree, or hours of work. None of that is true. This guide walks you through a complete personal budget in 30 minutes using nothing but a pen, this guide, and your latest bank statement.

■ **The truth about budgets:** A budget does not restrict your life. It tells your money where to go before it decides for itself. The person without a budget is always surprised. The person with a budget is always in control.

THE 50 / 30 / 20 RULE — The Simplest Budget Framework

%	Category	What Goes Here
50%	Needs	Rent, groceries, transport, electricity, school fees, insurance, minimum debt payments
30%	Wants	Eating out, entertainment, subscriptions, clothing beyond basics
20%	Savings & Debt	Emergency fund, investments, extra debt payments above the minimum

YOUR 30-MINUTE BUDGET — Fill This In Right Now

Step 1 — Write your monthly take-home income (after tax):

My monthly income: R _____

Expense / Item	Budgeted (R)	Actual (R)
Rent / bond	R	R
Groceries	R	R
Transport (taxi, petrol, Uber)	R	R
Electricity & water	R	R
Cell phone / airtime / data	R	R

School fees	R	R
Insurance (car, life, household)	R	R
Loan repayments	R	R
Credit card / store accounts	R	R
Support to family	R	R
Medical / clinic	R	R
Other fixed costs	R	R
—— NEEDS TOTAL ——	R	R
Eating out / takeaways	R	R
Entertainment (Netflix, events)	R	R
Clothing & personal care	R	R
Other wants	R	R
—— WANTS TOTAL ——	R	R
Emergency fund contribution	R	R
TFSA / investment	R	R
Extra debt payment	R	R
Savings goal	R	R
—— SAVINGS TOTAL ——	R	R
■ GRAND TOTAL	R	R

■ **The golden rule:** If your grand total is bigger than your income, you have a problem. But now you can see it clearly and decide what to cut. That is the power of a budget.

Ready to take the next step?

Book a free 60-minute financial coaching session with Chuma Afika Mlinjana.

■ **WhatsApp: 062 868 6293** - ■ **www.mlinjanafinancialgroup.com**

■ TikTok: @chumaafikamlinjana - Facebook: Afika Short Stories

■ *Get the full guide: The Debt Millionaire by Chuma Afika Mlinjana*