

# New plan to clean 'dirty city'

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THE SOL Plaatje Municipality is going all out – with rakes, spades and brooms blazing – to restore a state of cleanliness to the city.

Municipal spokesman, Sello Matsie, said yesterday that a “revised approach to the cleaning of the city had been adopted by the municipality which will hopefully deal a massive blow to the current state of the city”.

Last week the body of a man was found in an overgrown canal in Chris Hani Park. It was believed that his body had been concealed by overgrown bushes and weeds for around a week.

A week earlier, a 52-year-old Colville man died after being bitten by a snake, which residents believed had also come from an overgrown canal.

Matsie said yesterday that as a result of good rains in January, grass and plants had taken over “to an extent that the city looks dirty”.

He added that this had come at the same time as the ending of the EPWP (Expanded Public Works Project) cleaning project, which had worsened the situation.

“The city has now been divided into 11 clusters with roughly three or four wards per cluster.

“Each cluster will be equipped with petrol-operated grass cutters, rakes, spades and brooms and other



**CLEAN UP:** The Sol Plaatje Municipality has embarked on a clean-up operation which will see the major parts of Kimberley being cleaned.

items needed.

“Every team member will be productively utilised and a team coordinator will be held accountable for achieving set targets per day.”

He added that this approach would also ensure that a set team was held responsible for a specified area “as opposed to before where no

one took responsibility”.

According to Matsie, each team has been instructed by the municipal manager to have a targeted approach for the next four to six weeks, with priority being given to areas of high risk.

“Areas prioritised will also include parts of the city that are fre-

quented more often by members of the public, areas near public amenities such as schools and graveyards and entrances to the city.

“This will then be followed by expanding to other parts of the city.”

Matsie said additional flatbed trucks were also being procured

and would be available full-time for the cleaning operations and the removal of debris.

“The overall project manager is Paseka Rasego who can be contacted on 053 8306568.”

Matsie added that the management of the landfill site (the city dumps) had also been reviewed.

“It will be operated between 7.30am to 4pm from Monday to Saturday with spotters guiding where offloading must be done.”

He said that problems in the past had mostly arisen from the fact that people wanted to drop off waste at the gate.

“This will not be tolerated in future.”

Matsie said safety was being upgraded with full-time security personnel on site.

“We continue to advise the public to avoid the landfill site after hours until the complete refurbishment project has been completed.”

He added that weekly waste removals would continue as before although there are considerations around the improved efficient use of the trucks.

“The problem of illegal dumping needs to be addressed and a review of this is under way. In the meantime, societal behaviour on deliberate and illegal dumping needs to be addressed through an education and awareness campaign. More details on this will be available in due course.”

Picture: Soraya Crowie