

Stormwater maintenance backlog in municipality

THE Nelson Mandela Bay municipality has experienced a backlog in stormwater maintenance in various areas over the past three years, leading to flooding and damage to roads and making access for business delivery and emergency service vehicles very difficult, if not impossible, in some places.

This has hindered, among other things, the development of the township economy.

To resolve the issue, the municipality is fixing stormwater infrastructure in the area of Motherwell and accelerating the process by employing more bricklayers.

"The directorate of roads and transport is in the process of employing more artisans to focus on stormwater maintenance in the Motherwell area. With two artisans already employed, the directorate is already at work to eradicate the backlog," the municipality said in a statement.

The project, launched by mayor Athol Trollip last year, continued at the same time as the expanded public works programme-driven project which focused on removing foreign objects from stormwater drains.

"This is a clear commitment to bring about change and put our money where it matters most. If we have plans of building a township economy, a good road infrastructure is at the centre.

"Poor access by delivery and emergency vehicles to our townships will soon be a thing of the past," mayoral committee member councillor Rano Kayser said.

Kayser said feedback from residents at the recent Integrated Development Plan public participation meetings clearly indicated the improvement of roads be prioritised.

"We as government have listened and we will bring about visible change," Kayser said.

He said better planning would underpin and improve the success rate of the work to be undertaken by the roads and transport directorate over the next four years.

Meanwhile, the municipality this week launched a private-public partnership cleaning and recycling programme between itself and Marina Sea Salt, a Nelson Mandela Bay-based multinational company.

The partnership, called Shine your Light, was launched by deputy mayor Mongameli Bobani and is part of the municipality's War on Waste programme.

"We are at war with illegal dumping. We want our city to look beautiful and be healthy for our children," Bobani said. – TNA Reporter

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