

SOME TIPS BEFORE YOU CONTACT CITY WATCH

The City Watch team is here to help readers, but there are some conditions:

- We can't take up every case, but will focus on those that will resonate with, and help, others.
- We look favourably on cases with a record of correspondence.
- We focus only on issues that relate to the management of our city.
- Send your complaint via: e-mail: citywatch@inl.co.za Post: City Watch, Sunday Tribune, Box 47549 Greyville, 4023. For enquiries call: 03 I 308 2339
- We must have your full name and contact details. City Watch reserves the right to use all, or part of any letter, you send us. Names will be printed unless severe prejudice would result. If you cannot have your name printed, this must be clearly specified.
- Engineering complaints hotline: City Watch would like to advise readers that complaints related to potholes, blocked drains, missing manhole covers and the like should be reported to the Engineering Call Centre on the toll free number 080 1313013.



Not enough officers to deal adequately with crime, by-laws

CITY

ALLS from community policing forums and residents for the eThekwini Municipality to not only employ more metro police officers but to equip them appropriately, are growing louder.

They believe that with the number of residents in each community constantly increasing, the metro police's added presence – especially in vehicles – would prove effective in combating crime.

City Watch understands that the police unit started recruitment last year and once that process is completed in 2019, 800 additional members would have been added.

However, CPF and ward

IN SAFE HANDS

cerns about whether the city would procure more resources – especially vehicles – because the police unit was unable to perform its duties effectively

under resourced. Ward 36 councillor Shaun Ryley said he received regular complaints about metro police not enforcing by-laws, especially regarding simple

in the past, because it was so

congestion when robots were out of order and minor criminal offences. He said that for a long time no information had been

forthcoming on developments

within the department.

Christopher Pappas, who is the councillor for ward 31, which includes Greyville, Berea, Overport and parts of Westville, said it was concern-

about 160 000 residents had only four dedicated patrol things such as traffic vehicles.

> "This meant that the four vehicles available had to care for 40 000 residents each and businesses as well in the area.

"Considering the area is a mix of suburbs, many informal settlements, highrise buildings, businesses, industrial areas, universities, schools, popular recreational spots and upmarket residential properties, the need for a

police department becomes apparent," Pappas said.

Community policing forums have urged the city to provide more resources, especially vehicles, to enable the metro police to do their jobs effectively.

He said he was sympathetic towards the resource and manpower issues that the department faced, but as a public representative, it was important for him to raise the concerns of residents and others in his

Berea CPF sector one chairman Manhar Parshotam said the area had many establishments like shopping centres and pubs, but police visibility councillors have raised con- ing that such areas that had bigger investment in the city's was not adequate, therefore shotam said.

incidents of vehicle theft and robbery were on the rise.

"We are grateful for the relationship and support we have with the metro police and the SAPS, but I believe we need to have more patrols.

"New pubs are usually rowdy places, with cars parked indiscriminately for long hours around these establishments.

"We need the city to act urgently on such issues because residents are annoyed and no longer feel safe," Par-

Deputy mayor Fawzia Peer, who chairs the disaster nanagement and security committee, agreed there was a shortage of resources, which hindered the functioning of the metro

PICTURE: BONGANI MBATHA/ AFRICA NEWS AGENCY (ANA)

"It has been a pressing need for a long time, but this week the city's executive committee approved the purchase of additional vehicles not only for metro police but all other units that are faced similar problems,"



Robin Street residents Neville Nadasen and Krish Govender are concerned about the neglected vacant land opposite their homes which residents say is resulting in an escalation of crime.

Vacant land a den for thieves, say Kharwastan residents

CHATSWORTH

A NEGLECTED patch of land on Robin Street in Kharwastan, Chatsworth, is of concern for residents who say it has become a den for criminals. Adding to their angst, they

say, has been the failure of the eThekwini Municipality to respond to their complaints. Residents say they live in fear of criminals who

emerge from the bushes and break into homes in the area. Resident Krish Govender

said the local ward councillor and city officials knew of the residents' plight, but nothing positive had been done in spite of their numerous pleas for assistance. "This bushy area has

affected the lives of people living in this neighbourhood,' Govender said.

"The robbers monitor our movements and break-in at opportune times, which is frightening. We've been plead- ingly," Mthethwa said.

ing for an urgent solution," he said. It is understood that the vacant land belongs in part to the city's parks and recreation department and the public works department, and has been earmarked for a primary

"Recently, we had three housebreaking incidents in a day. Besides being an eyesore, the bush has become a hide-out for criminals. Samantha Windvogel,

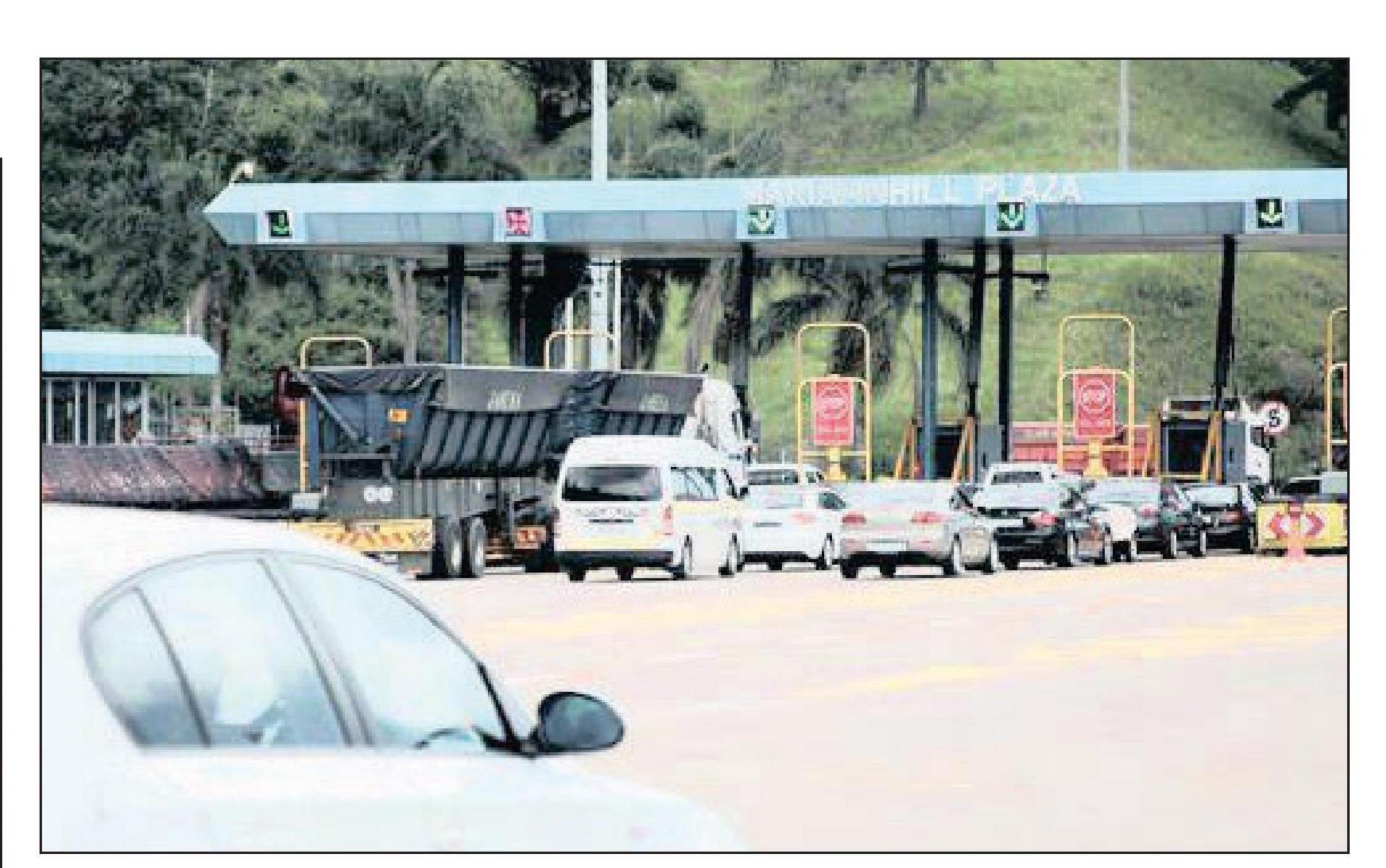
the local DA ward councillor, said she had attempted to escalate the matter to the relevant department, but had encountered difficulties.

eThekwini Municipality spokesperson Tozi Mthethwa, said the matter had been brought to the attention of the Parks, Recreation and Culture

"The Area Manager has been tasked to investigate and remedy the matter accord-



uMhlanga Urban Improvement Precinct (UIP) has congratulated security supervisor Andrew Finn for efforts to keep visitors and tourists safe during the December holiday season. Finn, left, received an award from UIP area manager Barry Smith for tracking and apprehending a remote-jamming team during the festive season.



Motorists who drive between Durban and Stanger say they are not getting value for the toll fees they pay because Sanral has failed to complete road maintenance which is causing traffic congestion during peak hours. PICTURE: SIBONISO MNGADI/AFRICA NEWS AGENCY (ANA)

Nightmare continues for N2 motorists going north as road maintenance halts

KWADUKUZA

THE R57-million road maintenance project on the N2 between Durban and KwaDukuza (Stanger) was expected to be completed last February.

But according to the SA National Roads Agency Limited (Sanral), which owns and maintains national roads, the project would not be finished in the near future because of defective materials.

Construction work has been ongoing near King Shaka Airport and the KwaDukuza exit on the north-bound carriageway. The delay in completing the work has angered motorists, who endure traffic jams Empangeni and Durban.

during peak hours because the road has been reduced to a single lane due to construction.

The N2 is considered one of the most expensive routes to travel because of the toll fees, but motorists feel they are not getting value for their money. The affected stretch of road links Durban and Richards

Bay, also one of the busiest routes in the province. Motorists using light vehicles and travelling between Durban and Richards

Bay pay R70 in toll fees. "The road gets very congested during peak hours and there are no signs we will be rid of this problem in the near future," said Megan Moodley, who drives daily between

"We expect the condition of the road to be of a high standard at all times. It has been almost six months and there's been no progress," Moodley

Ravi Ronny, Sanral's eastern region design and planning manager, said both upgrades were being undertaken under one contract and had been awarded to Nyoni Construction. "The work stopped when it was found the materials did not meet specifications. The contractor could not obtain suitable material to meet the minimum bearing ratio requirements.

Ronny said Sanral was considering terminating the contract and was unsure when construction would resume.

No more power disconnections at schools, says mayor



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Durban mayor Zandile Gumede.

CITY

eTHEKWINI mayor Zandile Gumede has apologised and assured parents there will be no further electricity disconnections at schools.

Her assurance came after the city had disconnected power to 30 schools (out of 492) with exorbitant bills.

eThekwini Municipality was nected would be restored, she not be business as usual with like these, are taken by offi-

owed more than R80 million by section 21 schools that have not paid their municipal bills.

Speaking at the city's executive committee meeting this week, Gumede said she was aware of the issue of schools with outstanding municipal bills whose services had been disconnected because of non-payment.

Electricity supply to schools It was revealed that the that were previously discon- deal with the issue as it could especially major decisions

said. "As the mayor, I was not aware of schools being disconnected. Even the city's chief financial officer, Krish Kumar,

wasn't aware of this. "We had a meeting with affected schools to better understand what the issues were and we are dealing with the matter," she said.

Gumede said the relevant officials had been tasked to the affected schools.

"Krish (Kumar) will deal with the matter and report to me. I want to repeat what I have said previously about the disconnection process;

proper protocols need to be followed if people don't pay for services.

"As the chairperson of the finance committee, I need to know when decisions,

cials. So, I want to apologise to the schools that were disconnected," she said.

She assured executive committee members that managers in the uMlazi and Pinetown districts were dealing with the

Gumede said she would also meet the KZN MEC for education to discuss the disconnec-

not suffer by having electricity ces," she said.

and water disconnected and that the acting head of electricity Maxwell Mthembu would also look further into the issue.

"I have been told that there

is a turnaround strategy regarding electricity supply to schools in place. "We will also be looking at

big businesses that are not paying for services.

"They cannot be making She said poor schools should money and not pay for servi-