

Visitors not safe in crumbling cemetery

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A cemetery in Bronkhorstspuit is deteriorating after the metro ended its contract with the EPWP workers cleaning it.

The graveyard in Erasmus Park was unkept, with the grass making it almost impossible to identify or even get to some graves, said local resident Charmaine Ras.

Ras, who recently visited the cemetery, said it was an unpleasant experience as she struggled to get to her grandparents' grave.

"I could not even see the path to drive on, which is dangerous as it is a narrow path with a concrete wall on your left and large trees, rocks and graves on your right."

She said the overgrown grass and weeds made it difficult to see where she was driving.

"I could have damaged my car," she told *Rekord*.

"It is a disgrace there is such utter disrespect for the dead."

Ras said the safety of visitors was another worry as the cemetery near the N4 highway was synonymous with criminal activity.

"People use the cemetery as a hideout and to do drugs."

Metro spokesperson Selby Bokaba confirmed that people deployed under the extended public works programme (EPWP) had been cleaning the graveyard.

Their contracts ended in December and the metro was now looking into using its own employees for the job.

"This is an indication of poor management as the city knew the contracts would come to an end," said Ras.

"Contracts should overlap to ensure delivery to those who pay for services."

Bokaba said the metro would have the cemetery cleaned by March.



Graves obscured by overgrown weed and grass at the old Bronkhorstspuit cemetery,