



ISSUE: M.Plain rank

# Big stink as toilets are shut

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STORY AND PICTURE BY  
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**ANGRY** taxi drivers and their *gaatjies* from Mitchells Plain say they are sick of doing the City of Cape Town's work to keep the rank clean after the toilets were closed.

For the past three weeks, along with commuters, they were forced to relieve themselves against walls and on open fields.

A 38-year-old female regulator, who asked not to be named, says they have been working in a "pigsty" for three weeks because the City's cleaning contracts came to an end.

"We just arrived one day to find all the toilets around the rank were closed. They put up the blue (portable) toilets but they were never cleaned."

Taxi drivers showed the *Daily Voice* the filthy toilets surrounded by *dam-metjies* urine.

The regulator says with the bus strike, the taxi rank is filled with thousands of people every day, adding to the problem.

"But even the toilets at the bus station were locked and so people were just doing their business everywhere. They only came today [yesterday] to open the toilets again, but the drivers and the *gaatjies* are now working between trips to clean up the mess."

City spokesperson, Priya Reddy, says the toilets were shut on 1 May after the cleaning contract came to an end on 30 April.

"Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) workers should be available to continue delivering service to the sites. In the interim, the local councillor's office has made temporary workers available and they are currently assisting with cleaning operations.

"Information was shared by word of mouth and resulted in many of the traders volunteering to keep some toilets operational."