

● Initiative will create 200 festive-season jobs

Green light for R5.8m project to clean up Bay

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A multimillion-rand project to clean up Nelson Mandela Bay's townships and northern areas has finally been given the go-ahead, which will see 200 people employed during the festive season.

The Nelson Mandela Bay mayoral committee finally agreed on the R5.8m project on Friday after it was withdrawn twice earlier by public health portfolio head Yolisa Pali.

The project, set to start on December 1, will create 200 temporary jobs through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

But the initial delays resulted in public health acting executive Tsietsi Mokonyane turning to acting city manager Noxolo Nqwazi to intervene.

Pali had withdrawn the report twice, claiming it was "scanty" and that she wanted "to be more involved".

She was, however, advised by mayor Mongameli Bobani to withdraw the statement as the media would accuse her of interfering in the administration.

The report was presented to the mayoral committee on Fri-

day and adopted with only the start date changed.

The aim of the project is to ensure refuse is collected during the summer season.

Other activities include the clearing of illegal dumping, litter picking, bush clearing and street sweeping.

The money will be used for trucks, refuse bags, gloves,

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Lance Grootboom

ACDP COUNCILLOR

brooms and compensation for workers.

In a November 13 letter, Mokonyane wrote to Nqwazi that the delay in starting the project would lead to a backlog in waste collection and an increase in illegal dumping.

After receiving no response, Mokonyane wrote to her again on Monday last week.

In the follow-up letter, Mokonyane wrote: "The public health department would like to reiterate the urgency as well as the negative

implications of the delays in the authorisation to proceed with the . . . project.

"The department would like to appeal to the city manager to urgently provide the relevant authorisation, to proceed with the clean and green project."

The move to finally start the project was welcomed by opposition party councillors.

ACDP councillor Lance Grootboom said he was happy it would finally get off the ground.

"It is a pity that it took so long for the coalition government to approve this.

"We are in support of this item because it was conceptualised by the ACDP when we were in charge of public health but there wasn't enough money," Grootboom said.

"This project will give jobs to over 200 people and will ensure massive cleaning where it is mostly needed in a short period of time.

"[It] will clean our township areas that have been dirty and will assist public health."

The clean-up campaign will be rolled out across wards in the northern areas, Uitenhage, Motherwell and Despatch, as well as some suburbs.