

Ridding the writing on the wall

The City of Cape Town plans to source 168 additional temporary workers to be part of the Graffiti Unit which seeks to remove illegal graffiti in communities.

According to a media statement, the City's Mayco member for safety and security, JP Smith, said graffiti creates the impression that no-one cares about an area.

"Illegal graffiti is a concern and can quickly change a neighbourhood. It can discourage business and it diverts funds that now have to be used to remove it, instead of being used for community programmes. Offensive or obscene graffiti can also affect residents' sense of safety and security in their own communities," said Smith.

He explained that the City's Graffiti Unit, under the auspices of Law Enforcement, will be bolstered with 168 Expanded Public Works (EPWP) workers from February to June this year who will be recruited from the EPWP database across the City and will be part of two teams tasked with cleaning up gang and illegal graffiti on the Cape Flats and in townships and suburbs.

"Negative images and words not only scar the urban landscape, but also those residents who have to look at it daily. Getting rid of gangster graffiti will help restore dignity to many communities and instil a sense of pride.

"The City recognises the value of public art and street artists as their work can inspire and provoke new thinking; it can beautify shared spaces, uplift communities and tell the rich stories of our history. I want to encourage graffiti artists who want to do graffiti or public art to contact our Arts and Culture branch," said Smith.

For further information, call the branch on 021 400 5944.

Illegal graffiti can be reported by dialling 107 from a landline or 021 480 7700 from a cellphone.