

# Illegal dumping draws disaster

LILLIAN AMOS

Illegal dumping in Sub-council 18 has become an ever increasing problem that is getting out of control.

The issue of dumping was discussed at length at the sub-council's monthly meeting on Thursday January 24.

Ward councillor William Akim said illegal dumping in his ward, Ward 66, which includes Parkwood and Ottery, has worsened since November last year.

"The amount of illegal dumping and the rate at which it is taking place is bad. People are dumping at every public open space and EPWP workers have to clean up at the same hot spots every day," said Mr Akim.

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) workers are employed by the City.

Building rubble, everyday waste and bulk waste such as broken furniture, washing machines and mattresses can

be seen around Parkwood and Ottery.

Some of the hotspots include the Klip Road behind Klip Road Clinic, the canal in Blackbird Avenue, on the corner of Acacia Road and Hoo-sain Parker, opposite the clinic in Parkwood and within the Parkwood area.

"It's gotten so bad that rats the size of cats are running around the dumping hot spots – it is a health hazard and it needs to stop," said Mr Akim.

"Cleanliness leads to holiness and people need to start taking ownership of their communities. In ratepayer areas people take pride in their area but in the council rental stock areas people are dumping everywhere," he said.

Mr Akim said he understands that there are challenges such as wheelie bins being stolen and people forget to put out their refuse bins.

"There are also backyard dwellers where there are perhaps six families living in one

yard but only have one bin. We need people to report this and to start recycling because it will help with the waste problem. Also, people complain that law enforcement and police are not visible but we live in the area, we are the community and we see this. We need to change our mindset and report dumping because these people are defiling our communities," he said.

Illegal dumpers also set the waste alight to get rid of it or to strip it for copper wires or other metals. This is dangerous because it puts residents and homes at risk. We need to take responsibility to stop these guys and people need to take their rubble away to drop-off sites. When they ask other people to clean, residents need to make sure that their rubble does actually get to the drop-off site instead of the street corner or nearest field," said Mr Akim.

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