



Tshwane mayor Stevens Mokgalapa with Frik van Wyk.

Metro contractors face snags

Kayla van Petegem

Chief contractors who manage projects in the Tshwane metro are facing several problems that are costing “millions” of rand.

This was according to local ward councillor Frik van Wyk, who added that contractors have now become a “protected species” in the metro.

“They are an extremely important part of our economic growth,” he said.

Because of this, Van Wyk recently invited mayor Stevens Mokgalapa to his ward to listen to the challenges faced by contractors on a daily basis.

“Without development, thousands of people will be out of work and therefore local government should have an opportunity to listen to these people,” he said.

“Professionals hired from a community where the project takes place need to be skilled, otherwise business suffers a great loss because work has to be redone, and that has not been budgeted for.”

Van Wyk said the meeting was a success.

“I am happy that the mayor was able to take the time and listen to the challenges the contractors face,” he said.

“He noted everything that was said.”

Van Wyk said forums and so-called

community leaders who stopped projects to a could no longer be tolerated.

He said this mostly occurred at new project sites.

“When a project is started, the metro creates job opportunities in the area,” he said.

“A certain number of residents have to be employed for the project.”

This was known as the expanded public works programme (EPWP).

EPWP is one of the government’s key programmes aimed at providing poverty and income relief through temporary work for the unemployed.

“EPWP projects employ workers on a temporary or ongoing basis with government, contractors, or other non-governmental organisations,” he said.

“While this is a good thing for the community, people need to work according to the proper standards.”

Van Wyk said sometimes the residents did not work according to standards, which slowed down the project, costing the metro additional money.

“This is something that needs to be urgently addressed,” he said.

“I do not think legislation is clear enough to protect contractors and will need to be reviewed so that contractors can enjoy protection.”