



A local helps in cleaning up the CBD.

Residents help metro to clean up strike mess

Bennitt Bartl

Tshwane metro officials, with the help of residents, on Saturday morning began cleaning up litter and rocks left in the capital by striking municipal workers.

During their strike, workers illegally blockaded roads in the CBD using rocks and rubble.

To prevent any potential health risks, the metro used service providers and the help of locals to clear the city streets, according to Tshwane environmental MMC, Dana Wannenburg.

Wannenburg said the metro was also working on addressing a significant backlog in waste collection services in all seven regions of the metro.

“The backlog will be cleared over the weekend and residents are encouraged to place their uncollected bins outside for collection.”

Residents helped municipal workers collect litter on the streets and bins to catch up on the backlog, according to ward councillor Shaun Wilkinson.

Wilkinson helped out in his ward in Sunnyside, where Expanded Public Works Programme workers and residents cleaned up the streets.

“Everywhere you went this morning people were out in the streets, helping out with cleaning up,” he said on Saturday.

“The litter has been picked up and hopefully everything will be back to normal when people return to work on Monday.”

About 150 participants in the Dare to Love movement also helped by spending the morning cleaning Church Square and the surrounding streets.

“The community brought brooms, bags and gloves, and cleaned up the CBD,” said Daryl Hardy of Dare to Love.

“There was joy in the air and a large number of homeless individuals also helped in clearing the streets.”

While cleaning up, the Dare to Love members focused on separating recyclables in clear bags.

“About 80 to 90% of waste collected is recyclable and the homeless can then resell this material,” said Hardy.