

Mdantsane residents in litter threat

Mayor reprimanded because rubbish bags are never delivered

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Just seven months after President Cyril Ramaphosa launched the Good Green Deeds campaign in Mdantsane in an effort to clean the dirty township and surrounding areas, irate Mdantsane residents have threatened to throw litter around the township.

They justified this by telling mayor Xola Pakati at his second imbizo at the stadium in Mdantsane in NU6 on Thursday that Buffalo City Metro had failed to provide them with rubbish bags.

One thousand people attended the meeting.

Speaking after Pakati's address, ward 21 resident Sithembiso Nyamakazi said: "We do not receive plastic bags from the municipality in Mdantsane.

"All these wards are complaining about the same thing of not getting plastic bags. We will continue to litter if the bags do not come."

Another resident, who identified himself only as Mvuyisi, said it had been three years since residents from ward 21 had received plastic bags from BCM.

The complaints came after Pakati urged residents to assist BCM in its efforts to clean the city.

Pakati said BCM would continue to clean all the areas using staff and working with the expanded public works programme workers who had proven very helpful in the effort to keep the city clean.

He said: "We are already seeing major improvements regarding the cleanliness of the city and we urge communities to play their part by not littering and dumping. Let us all join the Good Green Deeds programme and be exemplary in our actions."

Ward 14 resident Lisa Ntlonti requested the city to review its financial partnership with the Port Elizabeth-based Chippa

United Football Club. He said one of the conditions of the partnership was that the club would conduct sports development in Mdantsane but that had not happened.

"The partnership you have with Chippa United does not assist us with anything as the people of Mdantsane where these games take place," Ntlonti added. However, the crowd applauded the call to renew the partnership.

Pakati apologised for the delays in the construction of the Qumza Highway.

He was applauded for the number of completed projects he announced, including bridges, the electrification of shacks and the long outstanding construction of the NU2 swimming pool.

"In addressing the concerns regarding the swimming pool in the ward, we can confirm that a contractor is on site busy

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with earthworks. The construction of the pool will follow thereafter. But we need to move quickly so that we can finally finish it."

He said housing development and the electrification of shacks were major priorities.

"We need to look for alternative energy in informal settlements because these shacks are built on land that does not meet the criteria for legal electricity to be erected."

Several residents commended BCM and their councillors for the good work achieved since last year's imbizo.

NU17 resident Pamela Mtshizana said ward 22 councillor Veliwe Sakube had done a good job in the ward, including creating employment for residents. However, she said, residents needed a community hall in the area.