



Uncollected rubbish at the corner of Fleet and Cambridge streets in East London. Photo by Sandiso Phaliso

Sick of living in filthy city!

By SANDISO PHALISO

EAST London residents are gatvol of living in a dirty city.

According to them, most of the streets in the CBD are full of rubbish and infested with rats.

Simon Mangaliso, who often visits the city centre, told *Daily Sun*: “Cleanliness is a big problem and there’s not been any improvement in many years.”

Business owners and hawkers have said they’ve not seen the city’s managers do anything to solve the problem.

Buffalo City Metro acknowledged the streets were dirty and told *Daily Sun* efforts were being made to clean them.

Hawker Nosiselo Mlungwana said she cleans her trading space every morning.

“There’s dirty water flowing in the streets. There’s rubbish everywhere.

“The city is to blame for not cleaning, but the people themselves should stop throwing rubbish on the ground and use bins. We complain but nothing happens.”

Municipal spokesman Samkelo Ngwenya said a decision had been made to set up a separate directorate to deal with the issue.

“We’re also investing in infrastructure, equipment and vehicles. A waste management task response team is in place to deal with problematic areas, including the East London CBD and Southernwood, where residents don’t follow refuse schedules and dump everywhere,” he said.

“On a weekly basis, we’re clearing illegal dumps. We also have expanded public works programme workers assisting with sweeping, especially around town.”

However, Ngwenya said efforts had suffered a setback due to a recent strike by some workers.

“We’re taking action to deal with this backlog. We want to apologise to the businesses and residents in the city centre that have been affected,” he said.