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● **J-Bay residents plan protest over service delivery**

‘This is not a way to live — we are human beings’

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Jeffreys Bay township residents are planning to take their fight against the sea of garbage and raw sewage engulfing their homes to the streets.

The protest, organised by community members in the London and Ocean View townships and other areas, will take place tomorrow.

They also want to register their anger about open trenches containing live electricity cables.

This came to light during a meeting hosted by the UDM on Saturday.

UDM deputy president Ngabayomzi Kwankwa said the march would be peaceful.

“They will target the municipality and not other residents. It will take place without incident,” Kwankwa said.

“The municipality dropped the ball. It doesn’t focus on service delivery any more.

“It will be a mini-shutdown.”

Kwankwa said he was perturbed by the lack of service delivery plaguing the vulnerable.



UGLY AND UNHEALTHY: Jeffreys Bay’s London township is drowning in filth, says Vuyo Msengana. Pictures: BRANDON NEL

“There are so many general concerns.

“Some residents didn’t have electricity for two to four weeks.

“I will write to the national government to intervene.”

Asked whether the walkabout was a publicity stunt, Kwankwa said it was not.

“We are not here to canvass

for votes, but to better the lives of human beings.”

Vuyo Msengana, a long-time London resident, said the Kouga municipality was failing them.

“Garbage is strewn across

of the township and in front of our homes,” Msengana said.

“There is no service delivery. They take us for granted.

“We don’t even have electricity and the toilets are not working, the drains are blocked.”

He said people were getting sick.

“The water coming out of the sewerage drains is green and has been like this for a very long time. We are catching all sorts of diseases.”

Nolitha Gadlela, a member of the township’s street committee, said she was concerned about the exposed electricity cables.

“Kids are playing here all the time, so it’s an accident waiting to happen,” she said.

“It’s not safe for them here. It’s a big, big problem.

“Animals are regularly



UNSANITARY CONDITIONS: These puddles of water are polluted with sewage and garbage

shocked by the cables.”

Gadlela said they had had enough and something needed to be done.

“We can’t go on like this. This is not a way to live.

“We are human beings.”

Kouga mayor Hattingh Bormman said: “The land

they’re living on is not municipal land; it belongs to the department of public works

“Because of that, we are not able to give them electricity,

which is the biggest issue for them, and now they’re connecting illegally to the rest of the township and that causes a lot of power outages in the area.

“We have registered the

London community as part of our informal settlements upgrade programme, which will allow us to do certain [tasks],

for example installing toilets, fixing some roads and giving more access to water in terms of just making water more accessible, but because the land doesn’t belong to us



DEADLY THREAT: Nolitha Gadlela points out exposed electricity cables

we can’t give electricity.”

Asked to comment on the issues plaguing Ocean View,

Bormman said: “As far as I know, at this stage there’s no issue there.

“We are delivering the basic services,” he said.

“Because I am new in this office, I have a programme called 15 days and 15 wards.

“With this programme, I will visit wards and that’s starting at the end of next week, so I

will be visiting Ocean View in the next week or two on an official oversight visit.”

Bormman said he was aware of the looming protest.

“There’s obviously some politics involved as well because it’s the same day that the minister of water and sanitation is going to be in town, but that doesn’t take away from the fact that we need to deliver proper services to our residents.”