

Publication: Alex News - Main

Reach: 15000

Title: Blitz at Pan Africa precinct

AVE: R 28877.54

Publish date: 14 Nov 2025

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JRA workers clean a stormwater drain on 2nd Street.

Blitz at Pan Africa precinct

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The City of Johannesburg has rolled out a series of infrastructure upgrades around Pan Africa Shopping Centre as part of its high-impact service delivery operation, prioritising long-neglected public works in Region E.

On 2nd and 3rd streets, Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) teams worked to unblock stormwater drains and repair damaged tar roads, particularly near the informal settlement adjacent to 3rd Street. The upgrades were meant to improve flood resilience and road safety in one of Alexandra's busiest commercial corridors.

MMC for Human Settlements Mlungisi Mabaso emphasised the city's commitment to resolving persistent infrastructure challenges. "We are unblocking

the stormwater drainage system, resurfacing roads, and patching potholes. All the work we are doing here is about supporting the region and improving basic services."

The operation extended to Vincent Tshabalala Road, where city officials conducted an oversight visit to assess progress on rehabilitating the deteriorating tar surface near Greenville informal settlement. City Power also addressed hazardous illegal electricity connections along 2nd Street in Wynberg's Council informal settlement, further enhancing public safety.

MMC for Development Planning Eunice Mgcina called for consistent execution of departmental mandates, urging city workers to maintain momentum beyond political oversight. "Those responsible for cleaning must clean, those tasked with patching potholes

must do so, and those assigned to fix streetlights must carry out their duties." She also encouraged residents to take pride in their surroundings, and to report service delivery issues.

While by-law enforcement remains a visible part of the operation, particularly the removal of informal traders from prohibited areas, the city's broader goal is to transform high-density, economically strategic precincts, through sustained infrastructure investment and public space reclamation.

Ward 91 councillor Andrew Stewart said the Pan Africa precinct has been plagued by a lot of issues, and that they have been struggling to develop sustainable solutions to ensure that it is kept clean. "What we need here is sustainable solutions, so that we don't have to come back in a week's time and have to have a similar blitz operation."