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Author: Staff Reporter

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Bay municipality urgently needs to get back to basics

The VF Plus notes the recent motion tabled by the DA in the safety and security committee regarding the urgent need to improve road safety in Nelson Mandela Bay.

While we support any initiative aimed at safeguarding the lives of our residents, we must emphasise that sustainable solutions lie not in reactive, short-term fixes, but in restoring fundamental municipal responsibilities: maintaining infrastructure, enforcing laws and using public funds responsibly.

The municipality operates with a R20bn annual budget — a substantial amount by any measure.

There is no excuse for pothole-ridden roads, broken traffic lights or collapsed street lights.

These are not signs of a lack of funds, but rather a failure of priorities and political will.

Instead of bloated overtime bills and the unnecessary employment of EPWP cadre-deployment workers, the municipality should invest in fixing and maintaining traffic lights and traffic circles.

The VF Plus believes in a back-to-basics approach.

Prioritise the maintenance

of existing infrastructure, fix the roads, ensure visibility, and adhere to existing staff complement for traffic enforcement requirements and manage the city with discipline and integrity.

It's that simple.

We also call for scrutiny of overtime payments and sick leave exploitation, which are draining the budget without delivering value to the public.

The municipality must root out abuse in these systems and demand performance and accountability from all employees.

Also, safety and infrastructure are not political projects — they are core constitutional mandates. By focusing on real service delivery and cutting political interference from administration, we can restore functionality in this metro.

The VF Plus will continue to push for a professional, transparent administration which puts residents first, manages resources effectively and does not bend to political patronage.

Let's stop reinventing the wheel.

Let's fix what is broken — and keep it that way.

Councillor Bill Harington, VF Plus