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Title: Construction mafias threaten economy, lives

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HOW OTHERS SEE IT

Construction mafias threaten economy, lives

Department of public works must intervene with no fear or favour in the projects, writes **AK Bantseke**.

Allow us to once again to appeal to the department responsible for construction projects to raise its head and come with a strong directive for the eradication of the construction mafia in our country.

It seems the authorities and law enforcement agencies lack interest in stalling the scourge of construction mafia.

For example, the GaRankuwa Mall extension project, which

started in 2019, has been halted for about three months.

Hence, businesses that could have brought more shopping facilities and jobs have been disadvantaged. Moreover, the escalation of building materials costs from 2019 are adding to the woes.

To date, there is no sign that the extension project will be completed.

The reconstruction of the Kraaipan bridge in North West – swept away during 2021 floods – is another example of a stalled project. The stalling of the bridge project by people claiming sub-contract jobs has left the Kraaipan

residents with no alternative but to share the railway bridge over the Kraaipan River, with the train posing a dangerous scenario.

Worse still for the Kraaipan residents to use an incomplete bridge at a risk of being swept away during heavy rain.

We appeal to the national department of public works to intervene with no fear or favour in the projects with urgency and restore law and order.

Only economic growth and stability, minus corruption, will bring better life for all South Africans – not those who are politically connected.