

To: THE ACTING CITY MANAGER of Mangaung Metro Municipality

Mrs Ngaka Dumalisile

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Further to: The Heads of Departments Social Services

Mrs Mahoholi Mafisa

Further To: The ACTING EXECUTIVE MAYOR of the Mangaung Metro Municipality

Gregory.nthatisa@mangaung.co.za

BY EMAIL

Subject: Concerns Regarding Neglect of City-Owned Land and Legal Non-Compliance

Dear sir and madams

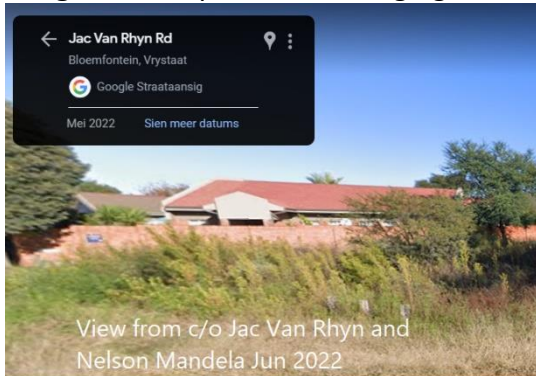
I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to bring to your attention some grave concerns regarding a piece of land owned by the city, situated at the rear of a row of houses within our municipality. This land has been left neglected, without adequate fencing or regular maintenance, posing several significant dangers and potentially putting our residents at risk. During a meeting in mid-2022 with the then ACM, Mr Motlashuping and aHoD McLeod I specifically mentioned this veld and its maintenance as a crucial point that needs attention.

The land is located parallel to Nelson Mandela Avenue between the N1 and Jac van Rhyn Avenue behind the row of houses from 1 to 41 Jac Van Rhyn. See **Image 1** locating and identifying the property and **Image 2** Photos of the overgrown veld in 2022 and the clean mowed field in 2010.



Address: JAC VAN RHYN ROAD ✕
 Legal Description: Portion 0 of Erf 21624,
 BLOEMFONTEIN EXT 142, Free State
 Owner: BLOEMFONTEIN PLAASLIKE
 OORGANGSRAAD

Image 1: The open land belonging to Mangaung, Erf 21624, Bfn Ext 142



Same view in 2010

Image 2: Erf 21624 in 2010 and 2022

I also bring to your attention that according to the National Wild and Forest Fire Act (Section 12) **every owner on whose land a Wild fire may start or burn or from whose land it may spread must prepare and maintain a firebreak on his or her side of the boundary between his or her land and any adjoining land.**

First and foremost, the lack of proper maintenance and fencing creates a serious fire hazard for the nearby houses and the entire neighborhood. The overgrown vegetation and accumulated debris on the land serve as potential fuel for fire outbreaks. In the unfortunate event of a fire, the uncontrolled spread of flames from the neglected land could endanger the lives and properties of our residents. It is our responsibility to ensure the safety of our citizens, and the current state of the land poses an unacceptable risk in this regard.

Furthermore, the neglect of the land has led to a range of social issues that threaten the well-being of the community. Homeless individuals have taken refuge in the bushes and vegetation, leading to unsanitary conditions, increased crime rates, and potential health risks. The presence of homeless encampments not only diminishes the quality of life for residents but also exposes them to personal safety risks. Moreover, the unattended land provides criminals with a hiding place and a convenient vantage point to observe and target homes in the area. The rising incidents of break-ins and thefts, directly facilitated by the accessibility and concealment provided by the neglected land, are a growing concern for the

City on the move

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community.

In light of these dangers and legal non-compliance, I implore you to take immediate action to rectify the situation. I urge the municipality to:

1. Conduct a thorough inspection of the land, identifying any potential hazards and areas requiring immediate attention.
2. Initiate regular maintenance and upkeep of the land, including trimming vegetation, removing debris, and enforcing proper waste management practices.
3. Collaborate with relevant city departments, such as the fire department and social services, to address the fire hazard and provide support to individuals in need.
4. It is essential that our municipality fulfils its legal obligations to ensure the safety and well-being of its residents. Neglecting the city-owned land not only violates various legal requirements but also undermines the trust and confidence that the community places in our municipal administration.

I kindly request that you acknowledge receipt of this letter and provide me with an update on the actions taken to address the concerns raised. It is my hope that through prompt action, we can mitigate the dangers posed by the neglected land and foster a safer and more secure environment for our residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I remain at your disposal should you require any further information or assistance in resolving this issue.

Yours faithfully,

Sincerely,
Ward 23 Councillor
Tjaart van der Walt
074 100 6808
tjaart.vanderwalt@mangaung.co.za



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