

NMB SUPPORT FOR HOMELESS WOMEN AND CHILDREN

MEMORANDUM

TO:	OFFICE OF THE NELSON MANDELA BAY SPEAKER
FROM:	DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE
SUBJECT:	MEMO: SUPPORT FOR HOMELESS WOMEN AND CHILDREN
DATE:	THURSDAY, 8 AUGUST 2024

As we commemorate Women's Month in South Africa we also focus our attention on the plight of homeless women and children in Nelson Mandela Bay.

According to municipal feedback received by DA councillors, there are more than 4000 homeless people living on the streets of the city.

As a result of the socio-economic circumstances of many of these individuals, some often become addicted to drugs and alcohol. Women and children are the most vulnerable on these mean streets as they are easy targets for violence and abuse.

Given the levels of homelessness in Nelson Mandela Bay it is clear that there is a definite shortage of shelters and funding for shelters that can provide suitable safe spaces and accommodation.

The DA in Nelson Mandela Bay has previously appealed to the Metro to fund the establishment of a shelter.

Our DA councillors have been working on the issue of establishing a homeless shelter and in the past were part of discussions with the City of Cape Town and Mossel Bay - both DA municipalities that have active displaced persons programmes and shelters.

The DA, therefore, hands over this memorandum of workable suggestions to the Office of the Speaker, Cllr Eugene Johnson, to highlight the plight of the Metro's most vulnerable citizens.

We make the following suggestions:

- The Municipality must investigate how funds can be made available to establish a safe haven shelter catered specifically to the needs of women and children.
- The Municipality must investigate how vacant municipal buildings can be upgraded and repurposed into shelters.

- The Municipality must investigate how funds can be made available to provide financial support to existing organisations that focus on assisting homeless women and children.
- The Municipality must facilitate interaction with the Eastern Cape Department of Social Development to ensure its assistance in addressing the issue.

The DA will never give up the fight to protect our women and children – a battle that is not bound to just one month per year, but is fought daily.

Yours Sincerely,

Nomvano Zibonda
Democratic Alliance Women's Network Eastern Cape Provincial Chairperson