



NMB HUMAN RIGHTS DAY MEMORANDUM

WE HAVE A RIGHT TO LIVE IN A CLEAN, SAFE AND HEALTHY CITY

TO:	CLLR THSONONO BUYEYE: NMB MMC FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
FROM:	DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE EASTERN CAPE
SUBJECT:	LIVING IN A CLEAN, SAFE AND HEALTHY CITY IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT
DATE:	21 MARCH 2025

Despite being enshrined in South Africa's Constitution, the right to a clean environment and sanitation remains elusive for the majority of Nelson Mandela Bay's residents, over 30 years into democracy. Under the current coalition government, the municipality has descended into squalor, with many communities facing living conditions that are extremely hazardous and unacceptable.

Section 24 of the Constitution guarantees the right to an environment that is not harmful to health or wellbeing, while Section 27 ensures the right to access to sufficient water and sanitation.

Our city is plagued by filth and neglect, as essential services have broken down. Litter remains uncollected, refuse removal is frequently disrupted, illegal dumping has reached crisis proportions and sewage spills onto streets, into homes, and businesses, posing serious health risks to residents. Regular water outages and severely polluted waterways also compound the health risks facing our people.

Clearly our residents are being denied their fundamental human rights due to the ineptitude of the current administration and its inability to provide residents with a clean, safe and healthy living environment.

This shocking failure is further exacerbated by the vandalism of 16 refuse compactor trucks, which has resulted in significant damage and theft. Five trucks have had their keys stolen, while others have suffered extensive damage, including removed parts and cut wiring. The cost of repairs is substantial, with a staggering R23.598 million required to refurbish at least nine of the damaged trucks.



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The Public Health department must be allocated a dedicated budget to procure its own security services, they can no longer depend on the municipality's fleet management department to protect their assets. This would enable the department to effectively monitor and protect its assets, ensuring the safety and integrity of its operations.

Addressing the issue, which is draining the municipality's resources, requires straightforward security solutions. The measures include:

- Regular rotation of guards to prevent collusion.
- Supervisors monitoring guards and submitting daily incident reports.
- Thorough searches of municipal vehicles departing depots.

Nelson Mandela Bay's main waste disposal site at Arlington has also become a hotspot for crime over time, occasionally making it a no-go zone.

There is a total lack of security measures at the site, including broken perimeter fencing and no proper access control at the site.

To address the crisis, we propose:

- Regular Metro Police and Security Unit visits to deter crime.
- Visitor register to monitor site access.
- Handheld radios for on-site security to enhance communication.
- Regular patrols focusing on high-risk areas.
- Priority repair of perimeter fencing.
- Alarm and panic button installation.
- CCTV surveillance and adequate lighting.
- Adequate staffing and resourcing of Public Health personnel.
- Procurement of security watchtowers for enhanced surveillance.

Arlington is not an isolated case; waste management drop-off sites across the metro are in a state of disrepair. A stark example is the Hillwagt site in Kariega, which has become notorious for rampant illegal dumping.

We will always fight for the importance of a clean, safe and healthy Nelson Mandela Bay to ensure human dignity and wellbeing.

The DA, therefore, submits this memorandum to demand that the municipality fast-track our proposals and provide feedback within the next 14 working days.

Kind Regards,

ANDREW WHITFIELD MP

DA Provincial Leader: Eastern Cape