

INXUBA YETHEMBA

UMASIPALA WASEKHAYA / PLAASLIKE MUNISIPALITEIT / LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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providing a better life for all its citizens"

20 May 2025

Mr H. Muller (MPL)
Provincial Legislature
Private Bag X0051
Bhisho
5605

Dear MPL Muller.

RE: URGENT INTERVENTION – CEMETERY CRISIS IN CRADOCK (INXUBA YETHEMBA)

The correspondence from your office dated 6/5/2025 has reference ;

The above institution is disputing the matter of burying corpse on top of another . This practice has occurred in the past where the communities purchased a double depth of 2,8 metre burial site so as to place the husband and wife in one site . This occurrence can never be done in a 1,8 metre deep burial site . Culturally there can never be a certain clan over another as this will create a confusion within the families that are buried at that particular site (Amasiko awafani) .

The institution has a book that has all the information that relates to the name, the site number, and the receipt number of each corpse that is buried in the Cradock cemetery. This system is manual and all communities that visit the cemetery to enquire about their great grand parents are assisted and shown where the sites are located .

As the institution started burying all corpses in this cemetery a computer system has been created inhouse so as to ensure that each burial site is numbered and can be shown to our tourists at any given time . The communities are welcome to visit our offices when the need arise . This has started in January 2024 to date .

The Inxuba Yethemba Municipality has appointed a services provider to develop and expand burial spaces at the Central cemetery and is still under construction. This information had been communicated in an IDP forum meeting of ward 5.

The Cemetery site is maintained by the parks and gardens section and with each burial measurements are done before any corpse is buried . The Inxuba Yethemba has a funeral

palour forum that is chaired by the member of the Mayoral Committee and Community Services . This Committee also includes CHDM Environmental Health Practitioners that are registered with the HPCSA and all the funeral palours form part of this forum. The institution no longer has a White , Coloured and Black burial site. The supervisor parks and gardens guard house is situated at the Cradock Stadium which is closer to this gravesite . The institution had appointed a security company which is visible in all the municipal facilities to ensure their safety .

The reporting of the departmental functioning is done quarterly from the Management, Standing committees , Mayoral committee and Council . The IDP forum meetings , that are done per ward , ward committees , Community members walkins form part of the transparency of our functions . This includes whatsapp groups , Communication section and the IGR that holds meetings quarterly discussing all matters relating to local space .

The manager spatial planning works closer with the Environmental officer who leads the parks and gardens section . Issues of heritage site are a tourist attraction and their maintainance is high in the municipalities agenda.

Community members are allowed to visit our offices in the spirit of Batho Pele.

Yours Truly

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "N.P. Zonke", is written over a horizontal line.

MRS N.P. ZONKE

THE HONORABLE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

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SECTION A: GRAVE PREPARATION

1. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

The Funeral Parlours pertain to the excavation, reopening, shoring; closing of graves in **4 different areas** of the Inxuba Yethemba Municipality, on an 'as and when required' basis.

Region 1: Town Cemetery – Operating.

Region 2: Central Cemetery - Under construction to be completed as per agreement 3rd December 2024.

Region 3: Lingilile Cemetery – Closed.

Region 4: Michausdal Cemetery – Closed.

All Grave preparation activities are as per dimensions for any of the Cemeteries named within the particular areas.

- Adult Burials: Single (1.8m depth x 0,9m width x 2,5m length), Double (2.7m depth x 0,9m width x 2,5m length).
- Adult Reopening (1,5m depth x 0,9m width x 2,5m length).
- Child Burials (younger than 6 months old) (1.2m depth x 0,5m width x 0,5m length).
- Child Burials [between 6 months and 12 years old] (1,8m depth x 0,7m width x 1,5m length).
- Ash Burial preparation of hole (0,5m x 0,3 x 0,3m).
- Supply and installation of concrete grave marker.

The scope of work includes digging by hand and machinery (jack hammers, TLB or excavator) removal of waste, rocks, clay, water, calcrete, tree roots and grass sods is expected to be part of the task of grave.

The Funeral Parlours shall be expected to:

1.1 Undertake the servicing of the cemeteries as per the instructions of Municipal official in charge.

1.2 Receive a daily instruction list of graves from the official in charge and meet on site to peg out the allocated graves for preparation.

1.3 To ensure that the grave is correctly prepared to the satisfaction of the Municipal Official.

1.4 When the undertaker lays out the carpets, sets up the lowering device, the contractor diggers withdraw until the ceremony is completed and the undertaker indicates that the grave can be closed.

1.5 The finishing of the sides of the graves and the levelling out of the bottom of the grave must be done by hand with the soil heaped evenly to the sides of the grave to enable the undertaker to remove the straps

1.6 The Funeral Parlour must be present in case there is any subsidence that requires clearing.

1.7 The Funeral Parlour must hand over the grave checklist to the Municipal official in charge for each grave that was prepared by them. This must be signed by refer to ANNEX.1

1.8 All excess soil from digging to be stockpiled at a safe distance from the grave and without the risk of damage to surrounding memorials and crosses.

1.9 Fail to compile with above a fine will be issued.



ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER


DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

ANEXTURE 1

No	Cemetery Inspection Checklist	Yes	No	Funeral Parlour	Municipal Supervisor	Comment
1	Plot allocated by Municipal official					
2	Dimension are as per the attached spec					
3	Digger are easily identified (Uniform or tag)					
4	Stockpile debris is cleared nearby (Stone, roots etc)					
5	Daily litter control is done around the area where the team is working					
6	Musk is not played out loud by the cemetery diggers					
7	Correct and neat backfilling was done by the Funeral Parlour					
8	Funeral Parlour ensured that there was no damage at cemetery, if damages occurred describe in comments					
9	Evidence of work done to be submitted to Municipal official					