



HOD for Social Services Mzingisi Nkungwana engaged residents who have adopted a park in their respective communities



Godfrey Malele asked the HOD how would the municipality support them



Tumelo Ramabodu has adopted Kagisanong recreation park



Dawie Coetsee, Manager: Parks and Cemeteries division



amongst others. "We don't have a list, but we are willing to work closely with you so that we can achieve our goal of having clean, safe green open spaces in the city. This meeting is just the first of many which will open a channel of communicating between the city and the adopters," concluded Nkungwana.

HOD NKUNGWANA TALKS ADOPT-A-PARK

The Head of Department for Social Services, Mzingisi Nkungwana convened residents of Mangaung Metro who are part of the *Adopt-a-Park* initiative on Wednesday, September 15 to engage them on some of the challenges they are faced with and how they can strengthen their relationship with the municipality to ensure that there are safe open public spaces for residents and children to utilize across the city.

"We are here because I want to hear first hand some of the challenges that you have encountered since adopting your respective parks. The *Adopt-a-Park* initiative exists because as the city, we have realised that we don't have the capacity to take care of all the parks and open spaces in the city. As a result, we decided to work closely with the community and get into an agreement with community members so that they can maintain parks in their vicinities," said Nkungwana.

He explained that the aim is to create safe spaces for children to play and for residents to have places of leisure close to their homes. Nkungwana emphasised that the *Adopt-a-Park* initiative only works if the adoptees maintain the park and keep it in a good condition. "If you just leave the park unmaintained then it becomes a problem because that's when people will start dumping their waste there and there

will also be a lot of criminal activities in the park," said Nkungwana.

Tumelo Ramabodu said he adopted the Kagisanong recreation park a few years ago and he was happy with the facilities in the park including, ablution facilities, a guard house, braai area and the fact that the park is fenced. He said though over the years, he has realized that a lot of learners visit the park because there is a school close by. "I am the one looking after the park and I have tried to mobilize other people in the community to join me because this is quite beneficial to the young people in our area; but I have not been successful," said Ramabodu. He said one of his concerns is that only one gate is operational, and this results in kids jumping over the fence instead of walking all the way to the gate, so he asks the city considers opening the other entrance to the park.

Godfrey Malele from Phahameng said he just wanted to find out whether the city has a list of the kind of support that they give to residents who have adopted a park, because this will help them know what can do and what assistance the city can provide when the need arises.

After hearing from the floor, Nkungwana said the City can assist with issues of stormwater drains, putting up streetlights,

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