

03 March 2022

To: The Speaker
Mangaung Metro Municipality
Cllr S, Lockman-Naidoo

To: The Acting Interim Municipal Manager
Mangaung Metro Municipality
Mr M Nkungwana

To: Waste and Fleet Management:
HOD Mangaung Metro Municipality
Mr S. More

By Hand

RE: MOTION TO IMMEDIATELY IMPLEMENT AN ACTION PLAN TO RESOLVE REFUSE COLLECTION AND THE NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT CAUSED TO THE METRO IN A SUSTAINABLE AND FEASIBLE MANNER.

Please take note that I, Cllr David Mc Kay and Cllr Dirk Kotzé on behalf of the Mangaung Democratic Alliance Caucus hereby submit a Motion to immediately implement an action plan to resolve refuse collection and the negative environmental impact caused to the Metro, in a sustainable and feasible manner according to the Mangaung Standing Rules and Orders, Rule 29. The Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, states: under Rights and duties of municipal councils, the municipality must use its authority and resources in the best interests of the local community and strive to ensure that municipal services are provided to the local community in a financially and environmentally sustainable manner.

Hereby a summary of reasons for the motion, that for the most part have persisted since 2016:

- The Mangaung Metro has critical resource challenges which lead to constant backlogs and disruptions in refuse removal, which include but are not limited to:
 - Not enough workers and 74% of the current work force is over the age of 50, so they are not able to handle the heavy workload. EPWP and community based companies are being used to assist in the CBD.
 - Not enough Vehicles and those that they do have are immobile due lack of day-to-day operational resources, such as tyres, licences, diesel, etc.
 - Mechanical and supplier contracts that have not been renewed since August 2020. This causes the procurement of day-to-day operational resources, such as tyres and diesel weeks to procure and the suppliers insist on upfront payment.
 - Currently of 32 Vehicles only 6 are operational (3 for the North and 3 for the South) this in-turn causes wasteful expenditure on overtime, as according to the National norms and standards each truck may only collect 1500 households per day. Any more is considered overtime.
- Residents complain that they now have to pay twice for waste removal, as in-addition to the aforementioned resource challenges, the Mangaung metro does not pay the sub-contractors either, that are supposed to alleviate the backlogs and daily scheduled collections on a 30 day basis as prescribed by the MFMA, which has resulted in a number of successful low cost private and community-based initiatives to sprouted-up. This trend is likely to expand.

- No contingency plans are in-place or implemented (if there are), to counter outside interferences, such as the Mangaung Business Forum intimidation, strike actions or natural disasters. This leaves the metro at the peril of its captors and their demands.
- No provision is made for recycling, which could be financially feasible and reduce the waste at the landfill sites.
 - In Mangaung up to 50% of middle- & high-income household, 30% of low-income household and 55% of commercial waste could be recyclable, while 38% of middle- and high-income household, 59% of low income and 19% commercial waste could be compost-able. Recycling and composting, combined with well managed transfer stations can be localised, low cost solutions to reduce the volumes of waste handled and dumped at the landfill sites.
 - Recycling provides a livelihood to hundreds of waste pickers while they have already saved millions of cubic metres of airspace for our city. No formal relationship exists with waste pickers. It is imperative that Mangaung partners with waste pickers in order to improve both their livelihoods and to provide formal support networks.
 - In addition the Mangaung waste Management By-Law and NEMA Waste Act, amongst others, requires both households and the municipality to ensure practical implementation of waste -reduction, -diversion and recycling.
- Illegal dumping has become the norm, due to unsafe landfill sites and no punitive measures or actions are being implemented, as prescribe in our by-laws.
- Terrible communication! Were it not for a 'refuse collection'-WhatsApp group (that is coincidentally very unreliable of late), communication would be non-existent. As a result residents are ill informed of refuse schedules, recycling options, landfill site safety and /or alternative ways to dispose of their waste, even though the motivation of residents to recycle and compost have proved highly successful in other municipalities.

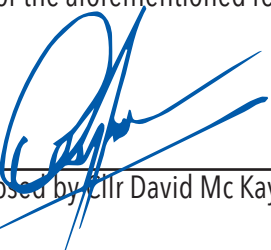
We as the Democratic Alliance therefore move that council approves the following resolutions:

- Immediately draft a sustainable and flexible contingency plan that will be able to counter any form of service interruption, be it intimidation, strikes or natural disasters.
- Eradicate overtime by employing fit for purpose staff and replenish the staff compliment. This will save wasteful and unauthorised expenditure and allow for proper reticulation of shifts.
- Reshuffle the overage personnel to other departments or place them on medical pension. This will free up the positions for younger more energetic personnel that will be able to sustain the strenuous work environment, resulting in less sick leave.
- Reshuffle the north and the south scheduled days as the Nouth requires less trucks (6) than the South (9) and most of the backlogs occur due to trucks breaking down during the course of the week.
- Resolve the supplier contracts and subcontractors payments immediately, so that the maximum amount of vehicles can return to duty and resolve the problem. An investigation should be done into the feasibility of completely subcontracting out the collection of refuse on a permanent 5-year contractual basis.
- Erect "No dumping" signs in problematic areas to resolve illegal dumping, in addition to implementing and issue punitive measures (fines) for such actions and contraventions of the waste collection by-laws.
- Proper and regular communication is critical. Communicate schedules and basic rules of collection properly to the public, via both media and councillors. Simple real-time public gauges of the airspace left, annual waste generated, and waste diverted be developed and communicated to the council and public on a monthly basis via social media, newspaper and the MMM website.
- Implement targeted low cost composting / recycling education and activation initiatives driven by the Mangaung metro, that are aimed at empowering households and community organisations to compost and recycle at a household level, within 3 months of this resolution.

- The department of Solid Waste and Fleet Services must compile a report to council, pertaining to:
 - The annual volumes of waste deposited and diverted from landfill sites
 - The lifespan of the landfill sites and progress of rehabilitation of existing and establishment of new landfill sites
- Finalize the rehabilitation and relocation of the Northern Landfill site
- Resolve the Southern Landfill issues with immediate effect. These include, but are not limited to:
 - The immediate and permanent eviction of people that are illegally residing within and around the landfill sites, as this will eliminate the attacks and reduce the criminal activity in the area;
 - The immediate deployment of a competent security contractor with sufficient staff to maintain a secure environment;
 - The immediate clean-up of the surrounding areas, as this has been caused by the unsafe landfill site and pose a health risk to residents; and
 - The immediate recruitment of competent management to oversee that the previous-mentioned proposals are implemented.
- The Mangaung Metro must establish a sustainable social contract between itself, waste pickers, recyclers and other stakeholders, which should include but is not limited to:
 - Urgent and regular consultations with communities at an area level, by the Mangaung management to explore and establish the quality, frequency and type of waste removal models available within the norms and standards set by the NEMA Waste Act. These waste removal models should be acceptable and accessible to each community, within the current capabilities of Metro
 - Community-based initiatives that manage waste - including transfer stations and informs residents of all existing options to dispose of recycled waste.
- That the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality commits itself to consulting with municipalities such as Mossel Bay, Cape Town and Midvaal, that are leaders in recycling, composting and waste reduction.

It is imperative that acceptable, affordable and sustainable waste collection services be rendered to all South Africans. The provision of waste collection services improves the quality of life of the entire community and ensures a clean and more acceptable place to live and work in. The lack of or poor quality waste collection services can however result in a number of environmental and human health problems. Tax paying residents have loyally been paying their taxes every month only to see it being misused and maladministration. Residents are not receiving any services for their taxes. The National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) stipulates that standards are required to give effect to the right to an environment that is not harmful to health and well-being and that this right have to be applied uniformly throughout South Africa. It is recognised that South Africa is a developing country and the purpose of the setting of standards is to ensure a service to all while complying with health and safety regulations without unnecessarily changing current creative collection processes as long as they function well and deliver a service of acceptable standard to all households. These National Domestic Waste Collection Standards are therefore applicable to all domestic waste collection services throughout the country. The Waste Act clearly states that it is an offence to contravene or fail to comply with the norms or standard established in terms of the Act. The current actions are thus in contravention of Section 24 of the Constitution, NEMA Waste Act sections 67 and Section 9, National Standards for Domestic Waste Collection in terms of Section 7 of the Waste Act. Section 68 of the Waste act prescribes the penalties for contravention of the act, which includes a maximum penalty of R10 million and/or imprisonment for a period of 10 years.

It is for the aforementioned reasons that we hereby lay our motion forward for adoption.


 Proposed by Cllr David Mc Kay


 Seconded by Cllr Dirk Kotzé