



STATEMENT

ISSUED EXECUTIVE MAYOR – HAROLD CLEOPHAS

1 April 2022

Siyamamela: Listening, learning and helping the community find solutions

The Siyamamela outreaches continue to add great value to Swartland Municipality's Council and administration. Having completed the third set of visits to ward 8 and 11 this past week, residents continue to constructively and excitedly engage with the Executive Mayor, Harold Cleophas, the Mayoral Committee Members and officials who traverse these neighbourhoods on foot.

Outreaches to the Wesbank and Saamstaan region in wards 8 and 11 have highlighted the several issues which the residents in the area feels strongly about. Blocked stormwater drains, issues about housing and safety and security are some of the most frequent questions received during the visit.

Although the Municipality has already embarked on its annual program to clean storm water drains ahead of the approaching rainy season, there is a trend of waste being stuffed into stormwater drains, which causes major blockages throughout the system resulting in flooding of especially low-lying areas during the rainy season.

In an effort to address the major challenges around illegal dumping, not only in open spaces but also in stormwater drains and other places, the Municipality has now formed a committee to put together an action plan which will span across all directorates. This will include increased public education and information on the issue but also the implementation and escalation of consequence management for those who are found guilty of illegal dumping.

Gangsterism is on the rise in our communities and proving to be a significant threat to the peace and security in our neighbourhoods. Weekends are now often marred with gang related incidents. The challenge is getting the SAPS to admit that incidents of crime and violence are indeed gang related. We will however continue to engage with SAPS on this issue and will even escalate the matter if we feel it does not get the serious attention it deserves.

Although housing is a provincial and national government function, as local government we remain the first level of contact for residents who have questions about how the process works. We will continue to educate residents about the process and will also distribute information on these matters to our ward committees to assist us in the process. Greater clarity and understanding on this matter will also help residents to channel their frustrations to the appropriate authorities.



As we continue Siyamamela, we are overwhelmed with the positive responses of residents who are happy to see us and give us positive feedback on their level of service delivery. Having reached the halfway mark with this project, it is clear that we are doing many things right, but that there are areas where we can and will improve.

END

ENQUIRIES: Mart-Marié Haasbroek – **Communication Officer**

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Die President het aangekondig dat die ramptoestand amptelik geëindig het. Daar is egter enkele regulasies wat eers voortgaan

