

BUFFALO CITY MUNICIPALITY

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**Buffalo City
Municipality**

Putting illegal dumping into perspective

From the Onset, we welcome initiatives by members of the community, including the Dispatch, in coming on board to assist our efforts to curb illegal dumping.

We have – over the years – subscribed to vigorous awareness campaigns and clearing programs that seek to address this issue and long after good initiatives like that of the Dispatch, we will still be committed to do so.

As such, the position we took in July is a clear indication of the commitment we have made to keep our City clean and ensure that we all enjoy its authentic beauty.

We have indeed throughout the Trash Busters campaign – reiterated that we have been following our own programs on clearing illegal dumps and such, the understanding of this context has been unfortunately misinterpreted.

On a few occasions, reports parallel to our role as the Municipality have been “exposed”. One needs to acknowledge the transparent lack of understanding to the general public as a whole on this matter.

Our investigators – who take interest and go out to the scene to record illegal dump areas – including those reported by the Dispatch, have also reported success on some of these.

This therefore comes natural to us and we appropriately so, have been pointing out that a number of interventions are being made to ensure that our City is rid of this ugly behaviour.

As we cannot be everywhere to monitor illegal dumping, we have continuously urged our people to assist us in bringing culprits to book, going as far as providing them with contact details and even cell numbers of our officials. We applaud those who have gone out of their way to keep us informed.

The demanding influx of the festive season alone – has prompted us to reinforce our cleaning teams with over 200 personnel (armed with spades and brooms) to tackle the cleaning of gutters in our streets.

The negligent behaviour on the part of those responsible is something that should be highlighted instead of shifting blame to the Municipality.

Removing illegal dumps is a costly exercise to us – where at times we had to source heavy machinery for assistance. How ironic, in that rate payers are the very same people who pay for these costs.

It’s even more worrying, when people illegally dump building and gardening rubble despite the fact that we do not charge for such.