

ITEM C 74/03/15

ANNEXURE A

QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR IN TERMS OF RULE 22 OF THE RULES OF ORDER

COUNCIL MEETING : 25 MARCH 2015

Can the Mayor advise, how the ongoing vandalism and theft from community facilities will, including most recently the arson attack on the Mew Way Centre, affect service delivery and the allocation of resources to those communities?

Cllr R Beneke (DA)

REPLY FROM THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR TO QUESTION FROM CLLR R BENEKE FOR COUNCIL MEETING 25 MARCH 2015

1. Vandalism and theft on community facilities have a threefold impact on the local community and the city as a whole.
 2. There is the financial cost of having to repair vandalised buildings and replace damaged and stolen equipment.
 - a. The Community Services directorate has incurred over R5.5million in damages due to theft and vandalism since the beginning of this financial year. This figure does not include the damage to two of the City's community halls as a result of arson.
 - b. The recent fire damage to the OR Tambo Hall is estimated to be in excess of R4 million.
 - c. Damages to the Bloekombos Hall amounted to R6.5million when it was set alight last October.
 3. There is the social cost of libraries, community centres and recreational facilities no longer being able to provide desperately needed services to local communities.
 - a. The recent arson attack of the O R Tambo hall caused severe fire damage and as a result the community centre can no longer be used in its current state. There are many community groups, churches, NGOs and sport and recreation programmes which use this space regularly and this centre has functioned as a hub of community activity for many years.
 - b. Another pertinent example is the theft of taps at the Mitchells Plain Town Centre Library which caused a major water leak and severe damage to the library's internet server. As a result, that community was without access to free internet via the library's Smart Cape computers for a number of months.
 4. There is an opportunity cost where money that is intended for the upgrade of our current sports grounds, halls, parks and libraries and the provision of new facilities in areas where there are few or no spaces for recreation and sport, is now no longer available. Vandalism and theft is a persistent drain on City funds and is preventing communities from receiving more and better sports and recreation facilities.
 5. The vandalism and destruction of community facilities has negative impacts for communities as a whole and has a negative impact on service delivery. We hope that the community will stand up and identify the people responsible for the damage so that they can be held accountable.
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