

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

**COUNCIL MEETING : 25 MARCH 2015**

In December 2014, the Social Development and Early Childhood Development Directorate's Street People Programme launched the Reintegration Unit, which consists of 24 Fieldworkers and 13 Reintegration Officers. The main objective of the Reintegration Unit is to facilitate reunions of street people with their families, and to refer them to relevant service providers. The Unit is expected to keep track of their clients' progress and ensure that regular follow-up visits are undertaken.

1. Can the Mayor provide information on whether any street people were successfully assisted by the Unit during its first three months?
2. Can the Mayor give details on how they were assisted?

**Cllr P Maxiti (DA)**

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**REPLY FROM THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR TO QUESTION FROM CLLR P MAXITA FOR COUNCIL MEETING 25 MARCH 2015**

1. The City of Cape Town's Reintegration Unit successfully assisted 85 street people in its first three months of operation.
    - a. The unit, launched in December 2014, is the latest addition to the Social Development and Early Childhood Development Directorate's Street People Programme and consists of 19 fieldworkers and 13 reintegration officers.
    - b. The unit is an addition to the City's Street People Programme, aimed at reuniting street people with their families and giving them a hand up.
  2. Reintegration officers facilitate reunions and referrals and conduct regular checks to ensure that those we move off the street remain on a positive path.
    - a. Many street people have indicated a desire to return home, but have been prevented from doing so because of substance abuse issues, low self-esteem and fear of rejection either by their families or the community at large.
    - b. Reintegration officers help address these challenges. One example is the case of a 51-year-old man who had been living on the streets for 15 years who wanted to return to his family in Khayelitsha, but he was afraid that they would reject him. The Reintegration Unit staff arranged a meeting with the family and helped pave the way for the reunion. They also organised counselling for the family, helped the client register on the City's EPWP jobseekers database and assisted him to apply for an identity document for him.
  3. The reintegration officers are expected to keep track of their clients' progress, including regular follow up visits and facilitating any additional assistance required that falls within the Directorate's mandate.
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