



**Dump in the making...An overgrown plot owned by city council which is becoming a dump.**

## Problem plots a headache

**Thuli Malinga**

The overgrown city council-owned plots in Vrededorp, Vredepark and Pageview (Fietas) areas are causing major problems for residents.

Long grass serves as a hideout for criminals, and rats have become a plague in what are now dumping grounds.

Frustrated resident Ebrahim Jooma called Ward 69 councillor Cindy Grobbelaar to intervene. Grobbelaar said her hands were tied and she could do nothing to resolve the issue.

Grobbelaar said, "I had a motion on it last year and city council told me not to worry as they had a plan and would address the situation but that was eight months ago. They're just ignoring me."

Responding to the allegations, the Johannesburg Property Company (JPC) said its role was to manage city council-owned properties and communicate with relevant departments about maintenance such as grass cutting, and law enforcement operations.

Zaheera Walker, spokesman for JPC stated, "I investigated the situation in Pageview/Fietas and discovered there are both city council and

privately owned stands. Environmental Health is aware of the overgrown grass and is appointing a contractor to oversee grass cutting on council-owned land."

She added that squatters had set up home on privately owned stands and were intimidating contracted grass cutters. Walker said when Metro police intervened the culprits escaped, leaving rightful plot owners at their wits' end. "In the Vredepark/Vrededorp area, Environmental Health appointed Solanga contractor to cut the grass and those workers are currently on site."

### Did you know?

■ After many years of pleading with authorities, the community of Vrededorp has embarked on a clean-up campaign that takes place every third Saturday of the month.

Working with the Jannies Klub residents, these locals get together to clean the streets of Vrededorp, Vredepark and Jan Hofmeyer and invite everyone to join them in this campaign.

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