

Mitchel's Plain Town Centre left in the dark

According to Council officials and stake-holders who attended the Mitchells Plain Town Centre Action Co-ordinating Task Team (ACTT) on the 20th of June at the Westridge Park, the Town Centre has been **without lights for about 3 months**. Every day **80 000 commuters** who utilize the Transport Inter-change depart and arrive in darkness.

Officials who manage and support the interchange and the Town Centre are either unable/unwilling/incapable of proper communication. This single fact is directly responsible for the non- existence of light. During the meeting, Patrick Lategan an official from the electricity department stated that, according to his information, the contractor appointed, did not submit a planning application to his department and he therefore had no knowledge about the current situation. At this juncture, the interchange manager indicated that she had sent several e- mails to his department with regards to the situation. The commuter and stall holders' representative supported the interchange manager. Ostensibly, one of the officials was untruthful and commuters were regularly being robbed and assaulted in darkness on route to and from work.

Furthermore, although the existing law enforcement available at the centre was considered by stake-holders as inadequate, the City of Cape Town has decided to remove all its existing law enforcement from the Town Centre. This indicates that the Centre will now be dependent on the South African Police Services, a situation which was not well received. While no person used the word corruption, police collusion was recorded in the minutes of the previous ACTT meeting. While the Police station was within the precinct of the Town Centre, stake holders continue to complain about the response time of security agencies.

Absentee landlords and problem buildings remain an issue as the buildings have become degraded and associated with questionable activities. The Town Centre that was ones upon a time the pride of Mitchells Plain has now become a place of anxiety for those who use and need it. All this frustration is the outcome of incompetence by a handful of officials who are unable/unwilling/incapable of thinking beyond the silo's that has been built by them to disempower those they are supposed to serve.

As an insignificant and miniscule political entity with no delusions of grandeur, some of us need to speak out loud and clearly to those in authority at the City of Cape Town. The city has the clout and the capacity to fix this, why has it not been done?

Councillor Yagyah Adams

Cape Muslim Congress