

Donkerhoek Cemetery's Safety Concerns Grow

Rustenburg – For many, visiting the final resting place of a loved one is an act of remembrance and love. However, for those in Rustenburg, a trip to Donkerhoek Cemetery has become a journey of fear.

Community members who wish to pay respects to their departed find themselves faced with overgrown grass, unsafe conditions, and the looming threat of crime. Donkerhoek Cemetery, located near Leading Light Funerals & Rustenburg Crematorium in Watsonia Avenue, has become a place of caution rather than comfort. Gerhard Janse van Rensburg, a member of Community Police Forum (CPF) sector two, recently struggled to reach the grave of a loved one. "It looks terrible. The grass is so overgrown that in some areas, you can barely see the graves. That's what makes it so dangerous. Criminals hide behind the bushes and pounce at the perfect time," he said.

On Sunday, 2 February 2025, Janse van Rensburg attempted to visit the cemetery but was met with a completely inaccessible grave site. "We had to cut a pathway just to reach the grave," he explained.

Platinum Weekly, accompanied by the CPF, visited the cemetery on Monday, 3 February 2025, to witness the conditions firsthand. The cemetery remains unmaintained, posing both physical and security hazards to visitors.

Community outrage

Democratic Alliance ward 16 councillor Johan Cronje expressed frustration with the Rustenburg Local Municipality's lack of action. "The municipality has offered no assistance in maintaining the cemetery. We are told there are no tools. If we inquire about purchases, we are told they were stolen from the storeroom. This has been the excuse since I became a councillor in 2019."

Platinum Weekly reached out to the Rustenburg Local Municipality for comment but has yet to receive a response.



A history of violence

Community members have been voicing concerns for years, with many citing violent incidents as a reason for avoiding the cemetery. Trienle Weltsz, a Rustenburg resident since 1948, has learned this lesson the hard way. "I visit my husband's grave with my sister only on the Sundays when the Rustenburg Crime Combating Forum (RCCF) provides security. After my husband passed away, I visited his grave for his first birthday in heaven, only to be assaulted by two men wearing balaclavas. They stole everything from me. Since then, I never go alone."

Unfortunately, Weltsz's experience is not an isolated incident. In October 2023, an elderly couple was attacked while tending to a grave. Their vehicle was broken into, and their belongings were stolen. Despite their efforts to fight off their attackers, they suffered physical injuries and emotional trauma.

In November 2024, a couple endured an even more horrifying experience. They were brutally assaulted by an attacker wielding an Okapi knife. The man suffered severe facial and arm wounds, nearly losing a finger, while his wife was stabbed in the chest. They barely escaped with their lives.

CLEARING THE PATH TO REMEMBRANCE... Community Police Forum sector two member Gerhard Janse van Rensburg stands beside his loved one's grave after finding the access path completely overgrown.

What can be done?

Kobus Ferreira, chairperson of the RCCF, strongly advises against visiting the cemetery alone. "We all know that Donkerhoek Cemetery is not safe, especially with the grass so tall that you can't even see the gravestones. For safety reasons, it is better to go in a group. Going alone is a risk. Please join us every last Sunday of the month from 10:00 to 14:00 when we provide security." For more information on the RCCF, contact 074 327 3041.

As the community calls for urgent intervention, one thing is clear: Donkerhoek Cemetery is in dire need of attention, both in maintenance and security. Families deserve to visit their loved ones without fear. It is time for the authorities to step up and restore dignity to this sacred ground.

INVITATION FOR PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS



BID NO.	DESCRIPTION	DOC. FEES (NON-REFUNDABLE)	AVAILABILITY OF BID DOCUMENT	EVALUATION CRITERION	ENQUIRIES	CLOSING DATE
RLM/BTO/0158/2024/25	Appointment of a maximum of three registered travelling agents for Rustenburg Local Municipality for a period of 36 months	TENDER DOCUMENT AMOUNT R 5 000.00 REFERENCE NUMBER: 0158+Company name BANK NAME Standard Bank ACCOUNT NUMBER: 033 054 657	Documents will be available on the E-tender and RLM websites respectively, 5 days after the date of advertisement. NBI Proof of deposit with proper reference as stipulated and required, must be attached with mandatory documents to be submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative evaluation (document completion and attachment of all mandatory documents as listed in the tender document) to include all necessary certifications. Agents must be ASATA accredited Functionality minimum qualifying score 80 out of a maximum of 100 points. 80/20 preferential point system (price = 80 & Specific goals = 20) NBI That no other evaluation criterion should be used.	TECHNICAL Ms. G. Sikwane 014 590 3339 gsikwane@rustenburg.gov.za Ms. O. Pelesi 014 590 3148 opelesi@rustenburg.gov.za	DATE: 21 March 2025 TIME: 10H00

Bidders must submit both a hard copy document and an electronic tender document in the form of a clearly marked USB. (Bidders will be disqualified for not submitting a USB with scanned bid documentation)

- Bid documents must be in a sealed packaging clearly marked with the bid number and description, must be placed in the bid box in the foyer of the Municipal offices, Missionary Mpheni House, Bayers Naude Drive, Rustenburg not later than the prescribed closing date, where after the bids will be opened in public at the Municipal offices.
- All bids will be evaluated in accordance with the Supply Chain Policy of the Rustenburg Local Municipality, PPPFA 2022 and other related legislations. Bids will remain valid for 90 days.
- The lowest or any bid will not be necessarily accepted, and the municipality reserves the right to accept the whole or part of any

bid. The municipality reserves the right to increase or decrease quantities as indicated in the technical specifications. A market analysis conducted will be taken into consideration to ensure right procurement and quality service delivery.

- Tender submission must comply with the instruction note (Tender Completion and Attachment of Mandatory Documents) as well as all other additional tendering condition and requirements stated in the tender document.
- Objections or complaints must be submitted in writing to the Municipal Manager at the address stated, and must contain the following:
 - reasons and/or grounds for the objection or complaint.
 - the way in which the objector or complainant's rights have been affected; and
 - the remedy sought by the objector or complainant

- Any objection or complaint must reach the Municipal Manager with a 14-day period after award has been made. Late objections or complaints will not be entertained.
- Submissions which fail to adhere to all the requirements and instructions stated on this advert, E-tender advert, CIDB Website for CIDB tenders as well as the tender document will lead to disqualification.
- Should there be any contradictions between the information on this advert and the information in the tender document, then the information on this advert will take precedence.
- Rustenburg Local Municipality will not accept late bids.
- The bid price validity is 90 days.
- Rustenburg Local Municipality will not accept documents which are not in envelopes and clearly marked with the bid number and description.

ERRATUM		
BID NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION	REASON FOR ERRATUM	CLOSING DATE AND TIME
RE-ADVERT – RLM/BTO/0083/023/24 - Appointment of a service provider for meter reading service throughout Rustenburg Local Municipality for period 36 months	It be noted that the tender document cover page has an incorrect closing time of 12H00, however, corrections are as follows: Closing time: 09H00	19 March 2025 09H00
RLM/BTO/0163/2024/25 - Appointment of qualified municipal valuers for the compilation and maintenance of the valuation roll for the financial years 01 July 2026 to 31 June 2031 not for period exceeding 5 years	It be noted that the advert published on the 31 st of January 2025 did not include compulsory briefing session and the 90/10 preferential point system (price = 90 & Specific goals = 10) however, the corrections are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative evaluation (document completion and attachment of mandatory documents) to include all necessary certifications. Functionality evaluation scoring 70 out maximum of 100 80/20 preferential point system (price = 80 & Specific goals = 20) or 90/10 preferential point system (price = 90 & Specific goals = 10) Compulsory briefing session will be held on the 18th of February 2025, Rustenburg Local Municipality offices at 10H00 NBI That no other evaluation criterion should be used. TECHNICAL ENQUIRIES Busi Faku- 014 590 3476 bfaku@rustenburg.gov.za	25 March 2025 10H00
RLM/BTO/0007/2024/25- Appointment of service provider to render vat recovery services for a period of 36 months	It be noted that the advert published on the 31 st of January 2025 had an incorrect email address of the technical person however, the corrections are as follows: TECHNICAL ENQUIRIES Ms. B. Ratsoma 014 590 3903 bratsoma@rustenburg.gov.za	DATE: 26 March 2025 TIME: 10H00

RUSTENBURG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
MISSIONARY MPHENI HOUSE
P.O BOX 16, RUSTENBURG, 0300

Mr. L. Jele
Acting Municipal Manager