

AfriForum's five-part position on the Tshwane MOU

AfriForum's five-part position, which will serve as a basis for discussions about the organisation's MOU with the Tshwane Metro, is as follows:

1. AfriForum communities take responsibility themselves

AfriForum's branches, neighbourhood watches, and members provide services where active AfriForum communities are based. Community members establish AfriForum branches. These members volunteer their services, knowledge, and time. The organisation's ability to undertake community-based projects has expanded significantly over the past few years, offering communities the opportunity to become more self-reliant. AfriForum currently has more than 315 000 members, 165 branches, 177 neighbourhood watches, and more than 10 000 members serve on neighbourhood watch and branch structures and are constantly working to improve and secure the communities where they live. In the Tshwane Metro, AfriForum also has 13 branches and 11 neighbourhood watches that implement the MOU with the Metro at the local level.

2. Crime fighting remains a priority

AfriForum has world-class security control rooms. The one AfriForum control room is based in Pretoria and provides essential support to security role players in the entire Metro. Furthermore, the civil rights organisation boasts the largest community radio network in the country, boasting over 8 000 hand-held radios that serve as crucial safety tools throughout South Africa. Additionally, 40 drones, operated by trained pilots, provide AfriForum's safety structures with a technological advantage. The South African Police Service (SAPS), among others, frequently call upon these drones during safety operations. AfriForum also provides emergency and disaster management services, and members undertake regular safety exercises.

3. Water supply is critical

To minimise the impact of water shortages, AfriForum sets up emergency water points all over the country and thus offers free access to this essential resource for all residents. AfriForum has already set up 95 emergency water points across the country and 17 in Gauteng, which are used especially in times of water interruptions in the city. Water leaks also present huge challenges. Leaks cause about 33% of water loss in the Tshwane Metro. That is why AfriForum trains its neighbourhood teams to repair water leaks for free.

4. The garbage crisis will not overwhelm us

South Africa is facing a garbage crisis, and the Tshwane Metro is not exempt from this. Within five years, the existing sites will no longer have sufficient space for waste dumping. The recycling project of AfriForum's Centurion West branch's specifically aims to alleviate this crisis in the Metro. Through the project, more than 180 tonnes of waste have already been recycled from the refuse that is collected from nearly 500 homes, schools, and businesses. This project is expected to be extended to other parts of the Metro next year as well.

5. Cooperation is ideal, but we do not need permission

In the spirit of cooperative government, cooperation with the Metro is an ideal way to tackle challenges regarding the safety and protection of property and the environment in the city's communities in a sustainable manner. However, AfriForum maintains that the

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organisation does not need Metro's permission to improve the communities in which its members live. The organisation will therefore, regardless of the outcome of discussions, continue to undertake maintenance, renovation, and safety projects.