

Bare lands

An overgrown bare land constitutes a hazard to public health as it provides breeding ground for rodents, mosquitoes and other vermins. It also represents a risk for fire outbreak, an eyesore and a hiding place for robbers, drug addicts and for immoral activities.

In the discharge of its function Health Inspectors of the district council may serve notices or establish contraventions upon the owner or occupier of a vacant premises or wasteland requiring him to take necessary measures to keep these premises including drains found in private property clean and free from waste, undergrowth or noxious vegetations. In case of non-compliance with the notices served by the officers of the Council, the owner or occupier will be prosecuted and he may, upon conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding Rs 25,000.00.

Section 61(9) of the Local Government Act 2011 as subsequently amended stipulates that where a bareland or any abandoned premises is likely to constitute a threat to public health and where the owner of the bareland is untraceable, an officer of the District Council may enter the bareland or premises and cause all necessary works to be carried out for the cleaning of the land or premises and removal and disposal of all undergrowth, wastes and any other material that may be found thereupon.

In that respect at least one team workers from the Council is involved in the trimming and pruning of overgrown bushes and trees in barelands representing a threat to public health and safety. The Council shall also be entitled to recover the costs of the work done from the owner or occupier of the premises.

In accordance with the provisions of the District Council of Black River (Collection and Disposal of Refuse) regulations as subsequently amended, the owner of a vacant land may have the overgrown vegetations trimmed and lopped by the council's labour against payment of a fee of Rs 1500.00 for each 100 square metre or fraction thereof.

