

Mafikeng Mail

Comment

Wake up!

Based on several recent developments as well as previous concerns raised by members of the public, we have no option but to strongly object to the continuing don't-care attitude of the South African Police Services in Mafikeng and other parts in the area.

While we acknowledge that there are a few good men and women out there in the SAPS here who go that extra mile in providing the necessary protective service to the community, we are deeply concerned about what seems to be a general lackadaisical trend and the lack of commitment by the entire SAPS system and administration in Mafikeng. The obvious lack of action by the SAPS against total lawlessness in two incidents that we report about in this edition remains a worrying factor, which we insist, must be addressed as a matter of great urgency.

The incidents include the weekly rag-racing in Danville where residents live in fear when every weekend hooligans descend onto the streets (End Street) in particular to engage in their unlawful racing activities spinning their motorbikes and other vehicles dangerously across the street with no regard to the elderly and frail and little children whose rights to use the roads and streets are denied and ignored while the revellers continue with their jollification, merrymaking and euphoric without regard for the safety of other road users.

A concerned resident has described the on goings as "deafening noise caused by four wheel motorbikes and unroadworthy vehicles whose drivers refuse to give way to oncoming traffic. "These dangerous activities are far worse on Sunday afternoons and tyre marks serve as proof to this statement. Asking them to stop these activities, one only asks to be sworn at.

"We have in the past failed dismally to end this lawlessness asking for help from the police or local councillors proved futile", said the resident in a letter to the editor. In another incident, residents in Golfview report that they have for years pleaded with the police to address another incident of total lawlessness at a public park where young people engage in explicit sex and where drugs and other substances are used openly.

"The public park in Libertas area has become a haven for explicit sex, drug abuse, where throughout the night young people sing loudly, scream, dance, shout and some even having sex on our lawns right in front of our houses and in full view of our children.

We have pleaded with the police and local municipality to intervene but our pleas are ignored. When they patrol, police merely drive past. We can't lodge our complains anywhere. These kids even threaten us and sometimes never stop until the morning hours", an angry and frustrated mother said in a letter to the editor this week. Now in any normal situation, both these incidents call for the immediate action of the police. It is obvious that the lives of innocent citizens are being deliberately disrupted and that these hooligans are breaking the law. The lives of elderly citizens, small children and other residents in Danville are put in danger. The lives of children of residents in Libertas are being unduly disrupted. They are denied their right to peace.

And what do they get from the police who are supposed to protect them? Zilch!

We can take this observation even further and ask MEC for public safety, Howard Yawa and his commanders why is SAPS in Mafikeng not doing anything about the obvious existence and presence of mostly foreigners who claim to be "doctors" and endangering the lives of especially teenage girls through illegal abortions.

Police here know exactly where these people operate. They know who they are. They know that these so-called abortions are illegal and are against the law and should not be permitted. We want to know why is it so difficult for both the police and the department of health here to act against these illegal operations? Are they first waiting for a life to be lost as a result of these obvious dangerous practices before they decide to act? If there is any law that protects these "doctors" and their practices and permits them to run illegal abortion operations, then let them tell the public. Educate us, we say.

These people advertise openly even in this newspaper and at every corner of every the street. They even annoyingly and illegally use people's vehicles to advertise their businesses. Members of the public cannot be blamed to suggest that the reason why police are not acting against illegal abortions is because they are "paid" for the protection of the culprits

"Some of these police officers are on a monthly stipend. They are on the "doctors's" payroll, one resident has alleged.

Obviously we can't prove that. But we will be watching and waiting with interest to see what the SAPS, Mafikeng Local Municipality and health department will be doing about these abnormalities.

Comment by Bobby Saul of 13 Martin Street, Galleria Arcade, Mafikeng.

'Anarchy prevails in the ANC'

MAFIKENG - As we remember twenty years of the release of Nelson Mandela from prison, after 27 long years of incarceration, one beams with pride to be a child of this protracted struggle for the liberation of the people of South Africa and the economic freedom of the African continent.

This day reminds one of the selfless efforts of men and women who were incarcerated for the consciousness that alarmed them of the oppressive conditions imposed on their people.

These champions of freedom found expression as the leaders of the Congress Movement encompassing the South African Confederation of Trade Unions (SACTU) South African Communist Party, Natal Indian Congress, Transvaal Indian Congress, Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) and Congress of Democrats, led by the African National Congress.

The liberation movement further included the Pan African Congress of Azania (PAC), Azanian People's Organization, Socialist Party of Azania (SOPA) and the student movements that earned their reputations from institutions such as University of Turfloop.

This proud and elegant history of the liberation movement was to be embodied around the personality of the father of the nation Dr Nelson Mandela.

The name of Mandela in this regard is not representative of the man in his physical nature but the collective history of the proud struggle against unjust laws in the apartheid South Africa. That is the all-encompassing history we are celebrating this day.

Twenty years since their release, the African National Congress in the North West province continues to be a shame to this beautiful legacy left

by the likes of Oliver Tambo, Ruth Mompati, Walter Sisulu and many other icons of our liberation.

The contestation of power terrain continues to see the ANC unilaterally removing the Mayors voted into power by the people. Whilst not claiming that the Mayors were in themselves angels, it cannot be correct that the ANC should continue to disregard the voters whenever power contests prevail in their organization.

It is in the midst of this confusion that off late, the Premier of the North West Province has been postponing the date for the State of the Province address.

It needs to be noted that the State of the Province address is a provincial policy statement that should follow freshly after the President's State of the Nation address, putting into practice the provincial realities and possibilities in service delivery for the year ahead. The departmental budget speeches should then take leave from the provincial budget speech that should soon follow the Premier's state of the province address.

The date for the State of the Province has moreover been gazetted through proclamation and failure to comply with this is an indication that the Head of Government has got no ability to provide leadership.

It cannot further be denied that the current uncertainties in the African National Congress are the reason the Premier continues to postpone her state of the province address.

We are thus imposed with the Premier who does not understand the full extent of the powers she yields nor appreciates the responsibilities that solely lies within the realms of her office.

We have an uncertain Premier who has to take leave from the actions of a faction called "the ANC Provincial Task Team" in order to run

the public service in the North West Province.

Once more, interference by the Mphekwa House continues to hold service delivery at ransom. This situation is not assisted at all by the deafening silence of Premier Modiselle.

Unlike the fathers of the nation who for the first time in running public service in 1994, still excelled and provided sound leadership in the likes of Nelson Mandela and his deputy Thabo Mbeki, the Premier cannot claim that she's new to the public service despite her failing to provide the necessary leadership.

This is an indication of a leader who will never take anything she does serious and thus by implication will never take the people she leads, the people of the North West province, serious. It must be understood that the Premier has always been a "follower" than "a leader" hence her stance of continually awaiting to be told what she should do than what needs to be done.

Given the failures of the Premier to have acted when it was necessary of her to do so, her continued undermining of the people of the North West province, her disregard for legislated processes and the legislature itself as well as her worshipping of the ANC PTT and the Alliance at the expense of service delivery, Congress of the People calls for the immediate resignation of Premier Maureen Modiselle from her current position of responsibility.

The people of the North West Province have not had sound leadership for some time and it cannot be correct that as they remember twenty years of the release of some of the greatest leaders in the history of mankind, they should be put through this current abuse by those they call leaders.

**Issued by the Congress of the People - North West
Contact Nikiwe Num (MPL)**

DA: 'ANC should accept responsibility for collapse of municipalities'

CHRIS HATTINGH of the Democratic Alliance in the North West wants that the ANC in the province should accept responsibility for the collapse of municipalities in the region

The statement of the NW ANC's Provincial Task Team (1) that their current destabilization of NW local authorities is in the best interest of ensuring stability and service delivery in municipalities is being put into its real context by the current series of public hearings involving NW Municipalities.

The North West is conducting these hearings Provincial Legislature's Public Accounts Committee.

During these hearings the root causes for the NW failing municipalities appear to be identical in all of these municipalities: - lack of capacity.

This lack of capacity originated in the cadre deployment policy of the NW ANC, which, apart from being racist in its very nature, caused NW local government expertise and institutional memory to be replaced with party favourites belonging to a specific faction of the NW ANC.

As the balance of power within NW ANC factions shifts from one faction to another, the inevitable purging of the previous faction's employees unfolds and new inexperienced low capacity cadres are being pushed into positions of power and specifically of the power to control finances and tender procedures.

The ANC NEC reported in their report that "the factionalism and polarization in the North West province over the last fifteen years has resulted in the progressive deterioration of municipal functionality to the degree that the situation is now in crisis. The successive bitter and highly unethical battles fought for powerful political and economic dominance by these factions has resulted in municipal administrations and communities paying a particularly heavy price."

It remains a mystery that the ANC, after identifying some of the root causes of the NW Local Authority problems, have embarked on the same process which per-

petuates the same factionalism and polarization and the same bitter and highly unethical battles for powerful political and economic dominance.

The following extract from an ANC NEC report into local authorities explained the process:

"A document titled "The Eradication of Popo Molefe's Legacy" was circulated in the Province during 2005.

This document outlined the plan of the "Tailbone" in what they referred to as 'Total Takeover'.

This document indicated that "Popo used governance bureaucracy to deploy only those who agreed with him and used Sipiwe Ngwenya, the Provincial Secretary he imported from Gauteng to cut communication with us".

This statement was a declaration of the intention to purge Popo Molefe's supporters in order to take total control of power in all strategic positions and offices."

AND "The greatest impact of the legacy project was felt at local government level.

The grounding of a functional and an effective local government sphere required the ANC in 2006 and going forward, to manage the deployment of capable cadres both in its public representative arena and the administration, in such a way that they preserved to some extent the institutional memory and the capacity investment made in deployed cadres."

"However this objective was not realized. Over ninety percent of Mayors, Chief Whips, Municipal Managers and key Directors were not returned. This did not occur as an accident of history but rather a well systematic and executed plan of action on the part of the leadership.

The non-returned cadres were labelled 'Popo Legacy' and successfully dealt with through a rather purging agenda."

The same systematic purging of deployed ANC cadres is now unfolding in Local Authorities in the North West - for the third time in 10 years.

And it has once again nothing to do with service delivery - in fact the continuation of these never-ending

purging/deployment events has depleted all human resource capital within the ANC as is now evident by the inexperienced low capacity cadres currently being deployed - the timing of these deployments could not have been worse - with almost a year left in the current term of office these cadres will not be able to have any impact in stopping the free falling NW local government system.

The level of delivery in North West Local Authorities (NW LA) has reached an all time low. Only 8 of 25 NW Municipalities could succeed in submitting Annual Financial Statements on time. 62% of these appointed expensive consultants to do the work whilst simultaneously continuing paying deployed cadres who were appointed to do the work but could not.

In the latest overview of NW Municipalities, the NW Treasury reported that municipalities are unable to spend their budgets in a given financial year - yet people are begging for services to be delivered.

NW LA (North West Local Authorities) could only spend 41,9 percent of the last financial years capital budget leaving R1,775bn unspent.

Simultaneously the debtors for NW LA are also out of control - it broke through the R4bn mark during the past financial year and because of the capacity problems and political agendas will not be reduced but will continue to escalate.

The solution for NW LA lies in the acknowledgement of the ANC that its racist and partisan deployment policies have failed - it has been jointly (with the cadre protected and abused NW procurement system) responsible for the demise of NW Local Authorities and for transforming the NW Province from a functioning entity into the pariah province of South Africa.

If the current purging was really based on service delivery and performance the ANC's PTT should have consulted with the North West Auditor General in order to identify the NW Province's (and SA's?) worst performing mayors and other ANC employees.