

the FLAMINGO fight

Letters to
the Editor

Kamfers Dam development – what our readers had to say

Get over the colour of your skin

SIR – I refer to the article “Flamingo fighters are a bunch of racists – mayor”. When are the people of this country going to get over the colour of their skin?

What a pathetic excuse to use by our Mayor, Patrick Lenyibi! No wonder this country is going nowhere slowly, because it's all about the colour of skin that matters. My word! Then they have high positions in society!

I even felt embarrassed while reading those words and thoughts and that coming from a Mayor! I'm sure there are people out there who can be better examples in society than this. Leave the colour of your skin out of it and see the bigger picture!

The flamingos are important and I personally believe this development will have a bad effect on them and it will be yet another thing for this country and the Northern Cape to lose.

Whenever something is being challenged in the country, the skin colour “black” must always be used as a defence. It is becoming so monotonous!

If you don't have an intelligent answer to something, then just don't say anything! Statements like these are the reasons why racism will never die.

How are the youth in this country supposed to lead the

way when their elders still hold on to poor excuses like “black” and “white”?

Even residential areas might be used to distinguish who gets to pay an increase in electricity and who doesn't.

Some of us might not live in rural areas, but in my case, my mother is a pensioner, just like the pensioner in rural areas, and we are just as hard hit by the increasing prices, but because we don't live in rural areas, that makes us less poor than them!

We struggle but we try our best to come by and we don't use the colour of our skin to get what we want! We also don't threaten to toyi-toyi and burn tyres in the streets to get what we want!

So the next time I apply for employment within this Government and I don't get it or if I just feel unheard, I can safely say: “I didn't get this position because I am not ‘black’, but if a ‘black’ person applied for the job, he/she would get it!”

Really South Africa, if you can't get over the colour of your skin and if you don't have anything decent to say just keep quiet!

Think about the youth who are watching your every move!

WHAT A SHOCKER!
Kimberley

I have seen them come and go

SIR – I have been interested in politics for a long time, almost 50 years, and have seen a lot of politicians come and go.

I have never seen a politician make two such ridiculous statements in quick succession as the Mayor of Kimberley did in the interview concerning Kamfers Dam on Carte Blanche on Sunday, June 29.

The first, the one about the flamingos obeying the municipality's instructions because the Council have taken a decision, had me rolling around laughing.

The one suggesting that the council would lay a pipeline to pump raw sewage into the Vaal River so that it didn't land up in Kamfers Dam would be funny if it wasn't so serious.

When the Mayor started playing the race card I was stunned.

But it seems obvious from Cape Town that the massive development is going to benefit the pockets of its supporters on the Council so they will make themselves the laughing stock of the world rather than do anything sensible.

PATRICK HURLY
Cape Town

At the watershed

SIR – At this watershed time in the future of Kamfers Dam and the Lesser Flamingos, I wish to add my voice to those who are appalled by your Mayor's response to the concerns voiced on the recent Carte Blanche programme. The city of Kimberley has a unique opportunity to preserve a natural phenomenon which is close to unique in Africa (only two other breeding sites exist on the whole continent of Africa), and is of worldwide significance to future generations. This situation calls for clear minds, and no small degree of vision – surely just what we would expect from our elected leaders? The flamingos can NOT be moved elsewhere; housing developments can!

DR A SAMPSON
Johannesburg

We also want to have our say

SIR – I find myself embarrassed to be a Kimberlite following Carte Blanche's story regarding the development project near Kamfers Dam. What an arrogant Mayor we have!

Not only that but he ignores procedures ie by agreeing to the development before an environmental impact study has been done! There is a reason that these procedures are followed Mr Mayor! Where are the days where one was punished for not following procedures?

Maybe he doesn't quite understand the term “environmental impact”. Can someone please go and explain it to him? When he said that no-one will stop the development, he actually said that the people of Kimberley don't have a say. And please drop the racism card, it's getting so tiring!

Go and have a look on Carte Blanche's website (www.cartablanca.co.za) and

look at the comment left from people all over South Africa about our intelligent mayor and disgust in the development!

However, after you've read the comments it is no use you sit back and shake your head. Get active and involved and join the protest in saving the flamingos. (www.savetheflamingo.co.za).

Not only has the environment got to be preserved for our children and their children but the flamingos also bring in an income from tourism.

I somehow don't think tourists are going to flock here to see a dam that is over flowing with sewerage and sick birds (that's if the birds haven't taken flight with all the noise from the development)

Mr Mayor, the people who pay taxes (and your salary) also want a say!

**CONCERNED
FLAMINGO FAN**
Kimberley

The powerful ruling the powerless