

DFA 22/7/08

What do we say?

SIR - This letter is in response to the Northgate Development that should soon kick off in the Cinderella Township - Roodepan. There has been a lot of commotion by a few *moegoes* and *mamparas* over the last few weeks about "Men versus Nature", in terms of the survival of the lesser flamingos through the Northgate Development.

I wish to air my views and support to the Northgate Development and I have the following questions to ask to all the cynics out there:

Why did no one complain when the Flamingo Casino was built a few metres from the flamingos, through blasting and loads of dust?

Why does the train that passes adjacent to the flamingos not disturb them? Why does the N12 with all its daily traffic not disturb the flamingos?

The community of Roodepan, living in a poverty pocket, may not have access to the Internet to sign online petitions, but I guarantee that we can still mobilise the masses like we used to do back in the old days. We can find out from

the people on the streets, whether they want an opportunity to have a job or protect the flamingos that we so dearly love.

The answer to this question will be obvious. We will obviously not take up arms and kill for the Northgate Development, but we will be able to voice our grievances through all the legal and constitutional channels that our government has made available to us.

The time has come for the community of Roodepan and surrounding areas to look forward to buying their groceries and snoek within

walking distance from their homes, and wave to the flamingos and even visit the bird sanctuary on Sunday afternoons with their families with packed picnic baskets.

And as the fairly tale story in this Cinderella Township will end - "And they lived happily ever after - Civilised People and the world renowned lesser flamingos, next to each other".

**ROODEPAN RESIDENT
Kimberley**

DFA 24/7/08

The bigger picture

SIR - In response to the letter "What do we say?" (Tuesday, July 22), I think the author does not understand the bigger picture.

The biggest concerns regarding the development is not only the increased noise levels, but the increase in human waste.

Of course, people are going to say they vote for the development.

Jobs, yes, of course there will be jobs - until construction has been completed, that is.

But carry on destroying nature

and see what is going to be left for our grandchildren.

Human beings are the most thoughtless, selfish things around.

There is so much land around Kimberley, why choose a place where there is a conservation? Remember another thing, tourists flock to see these flamingos in their glory, not to see houses, shops and waste running into the dam!

Tourism is an ongoing income, not a once off building "scrob".

Has anyone ever smelt the flamingo pan in summer? Do you want to live with that smell?

I can see what will happen here.

Firstly the development will take place, people will move in and live happily until they experience the stench from the dam. Then they are going to protest and demand to be relocated as its inhuman for them to live in such conditions!

All the fighting over land and rights . . . what about nature?

When are we going to wake up and start realising that nature plays a big role in our existence? I feel like saying it is a losing battle and giving up but then I think about our children and their futures.

When you switch on the television, all you hear is "rights to this, rights to that". What about nature's rights? God put these creatures on earth with the same rights as humans. The only thing is, humans are too selfish to care.

And please stop thinking that it's only the wealthy that is against the affordable development taking place. I'm anything but wealthy! For goodness sake, find other land to build on!

**TIRED OF PEOPLE
PLAYING WITH NATURE!
Kimberley**