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NEWS

Mayor's claims spark an outcry

STAFF REPORTER

A PRESS conference, called by Sol Plaatje mayor Patrick Lenyibi to bring the controversial flamingo issue to rest has, instead, sparked a massive outcry from both city residents and outsiders, who have lashed out at his allegations of racism.

The DFA has been inundated with letters criticising Lenyibi for his statements during the conference that "the remnants of racism are still very much alive" and that the flak the proposed R2 billion Northgate Property Development Project was receiving was an example of this.

Lenyibi stated that if a white company had wanted to develop a golf estate, no one would have had a problem but because it was a group of black people there was a big fuss.

"When the mayor started playing the race card I was stunned," one writer from Cape Town said in a letter to the DFA.

"Political regime changes mean nothing to animals and their right

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to a free and happy life, for whether a regime is Left or Right, Capitalist or Communist, White or Black, Afrikaner or ANC, the same species apartheid mentality and policies prevail.

"Animals, in this instance the Lesser Flamingo, are being exploited, they are reduced to a burden, hindering human development and are disregarded as fellow inhabitants of our country for money's sake," another stated.

Kimberley residents were equally vocal.

"Whenever something is being challenged in the country, the skin colour 'black' must always be used

as a defence. It is becoming so monotonous!"

Another irate reader pointed out that it had become the order of the day of people in leadership positions to blame their own ignorance and incompetence on racism.

"When will they ever learn to start taking responsibility and become role models to ordinary citizens? Lenyibi's conference was organised in order to bring the controversial flamingo issue to rest once and for all, but rather sparked further uproar due to his inflammatory and contradicting statements.

"Racism has absolutely nothing to do with the current row over the Kimberley flamingos. The real issue at hand is the poor management of infrastructure."

Another resident said she was "shocked and disgusted that somebody in the position of mayor would take up such a disgusting attitude".

"Who is the actual racist?" she asked. "If a white person were to make that comment there would be a great uproar but it is OK for a so-called educated mayor of a city to say whatever he pleases."