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From: [vincent green](mailto:vincent.green@peoplespost.co.za)

To: monique.duval@peoplespost.co.za

Cc: post@peoplespost.co.za

Sent: Saturday, December 14, 2013 7:29 PM

Subject: Letter

I read with great interest the letter from Dr. Lutz Van Dijk in last week's publication.

I commend him and his like for the efforts in attempting to create an awareness amongst those of us who live in our suburbs - of the issues facing our neighbours in Masiphumelele, and I am grateful for the setting up of the ubuMelwane group as a Forum for concerned neighbours to communicate and contribute in some form.

We should all understand that our "neighbourhood" should not be determined by our perspective on what constitutes such.

The facts are that Kommetjie is in near proximity to Ocean View.... and Faerie Knowe / Milkwood Park / Sunnydale and Capri are in close proximity to each other and also to Masiphumelele.

This aint going to change.....

As neighbours, we should strive to care for each other and show compassion / empathy / assistance for those around us.

For this reason, I feel that we should unite in voice to find a solution to the two most pressing issues that I am aware of facing our neighbours in Masiphumele.

- 1) The creation of a second access road to the area to assist in event of emergencies and general access.
- 2) The urgent need for extra land in the area to house the residents that are living in overcrowded conditions.

I have witnessed attitudes of a great many individuals in our neighbourhoods over the recent years, as well as questioning myself on many occasions.

I have witnessed many acts of great reaching out and bonding between previously disparate neighbours....and am greatly encouraged by this.

I have also witnessed many sad and bitter incidents illustrating the exact opposite.

I would urge all residents in this area to take heed of Dr. Van Dijk's comments regarding the populist appeal of a person such as Julius Malema.

Since an early age, my mother taught me to "always put yourself in the other person's shoes" before expressing too much of an opinion.

I know that if I felt that my hard earned liberty and human rights as a person were being stalled 20 years after our first democratic elections through any of the current issues facing us - I would seek comfort in aligning myself with someone who is actively seeking to change the status quo :

The issues are too many to list in such a complex society, and they are caused as a collective by government and by individuals.

I am confident that our leaders are wise enough to persevere and right mistakes made along the way as a collective.

The more important and crucial element, is how we move forward as individuals, as that is how momentum is gained or lost.

We all need to examine the legacy that Tata Madiba left in our individual hearts.

We all need to reach out across previous divides to each other.

We all need to welcome each other into our respective neighbourhoods and treat each other in as dignified way as we would like to be treated.

The good that has prevailed amongst the majority of our nation cannot be put at risk by any reluctance to do so.

I would urge anyone who feels similarly to make your voice heard.

Vincent Green

