

23 January 2016

Dear Cllr Purchase,

This is what I wrote to those you call 'Lutz and his friends':

Cllr Purchase charged Lutz (and copied it to various people including the Premier, Helen Zille): "You and your friends are deliberately trying to create dissension in Masi....

You heard me discuss each I'll person.

There is no outbreak except in your mind.

One has diabetes and 4 are on normal medication. They have all been to clinic for Meds and are taking them.

The country is full of all sorts of risks.

I will continue to discuss with the affected community and not those that twist info for some other agenda. The community is also getting tired of this as well as the incitement last night for them to do land invasions. Don't be part of a continued attempt to encourage people to do illegal activities.

Regards,
Felicity"

Cllr Purchase is angry! So are we, Lutz' friends! If she accuses Lutz of 'incitement to do land invasions' and of encouraging people to do 'illegal actions', I for one, want her to know that I am one of Lutz' friends she is referring to. I have no doubt you will all agree, if she tries to tackle Lutz, she tackles us all.

Lutz and I met yesterday to discuss the above and the increasingly bad situation that is imposed by an unsympathetic and hostile local government administration.

I am sure Ms Purchase is working hard and is exhausted and exasperated by the lack of progress she is making with regard to finding real solutions for the poorest in our community. The problem is not her lack of effort, but that she appears to be stuck with a set of policy options that are hopelessly inappropriate and out of touch with the injustices her administration impose on Masi's residents. Ms

Purchase is not alone because similarly stultifying responses to the lives of poor people are imposed by ANC local administrations round the country. Some of them may have good intentions but they all lack a sense of urgency in light of the upwelling dissent their limited policies is causing.

The land and housing issues for the recently urbanised (and not yet urbanised!) cannot be solved with a set of narrow tools, which invariably must lead to outbursts such as we have seen in Masi and on Kommetjie Road. What is needed is a broad discussion between the DA, the ANC, civics and civil society, at which political party spats are set aside in the interest of meeting the basic needs that our democratic constitution demands of us. The elite brickbat tussle the political parties are gearing up for in the run-up to the election ritual we face later this year, is ridiculous and stupid in a society with problems such as ours. Being one of the most unequal societies in the world is not an abstract statistic, it is a very real situation here in Masi, in the mis-named wetlands, in the community hall and beyond.

Ms Purchase and we all should not underestimate what the fire has done to 4,500 lives. Those people have to start from scratch. They are factually the poorest of the poor. They have, under the provisions of our constitution, got to get meaningful support that takes this City Council beyond responding in a business as usual way. This crises goes far deeper than disaster relief or church charity.

I re-read our Constitution and what it says about our rights (and the limitations of rights) again this morning. I urge you all to read the relevant sections once more. They are not abstract concepts. They have relevance in the very situation we find ourselves in, right now, here in Cape Town.

Ms Purchase should not accuse us of breaking the law. She is wrong. None of us ever used the word 'land invasion'. Do not accuse us of 'illegal activities'. To seek solutions has got us on the trail of real concrete land options adjacent to Masi that should have been exercised with vigour and openness years ago. The absence of this is what got us involved in seeking justice and equity in our

neighbourhood.

Like Lutz, I don't take the charges Ms Purchase makes lightly. I bemoan that she and others do not treat us as allies who push her administration to do more. This would be a healthy counter to all those who live in comfort who want the City administration to do less.

Yours,

Horst.