
MEMORANDUM OF DEMANDS TO THE KOUGA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY (KLM)

FROM : **Ward 4 Action Group**
Representing communities within Ward 4 in Kouga Municipality

TO : **The Municipal Manager**
Kouga Local Municipality

CC : **The Mayor**
Kouga Local Municipality

HANDED TO : The Speaker
Kouga Local Municipality

Ward Councillor; Ward 4
Kouga Local Municipality

Date: **29 May 2023**

1. Preamble

Municipalities are established by the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act of 2000 as amended. Integral to their establishment is that they must ensure sustainable livelihood accrues to its communities by developing, implementing or facilitating social and economic programmes.

We, the community of Ward 4, hereby gather here today, the 29th of May 2023, to present memorandum of demands which are informed by inefficient and ineffective ways of running, management, and the administration of this municipality due to corrupt conduct thus no delivery of genuine and fundamental services to all residents in the municipality, especially the residents of Ward 4.

We have noted the following in the administration and leadership of this Municipality:

- ✓ Nepotism, party favourism by the ruling party in the municipality
- ✓ Interference by the Executive Mayor into the administration of the municipality
- ✓ Arrogance displayed by most public representatives elected into office,

- ✓ Leadership vacuum within the Municipality,
- ✓ Arrogance displayed by most public representatives elected into office,
- ✓ Lack of accountability by public representatives to their communities,
- ✓ Arrogance displayed by senior officials when engaged on issues relating to the Municipality Administration and service delivery,
- ✓ Incongruent relationships by senior public representatives elected into office.

2. Demands

In the light of the above we resolved to submit this memorandum of demands against the following grievances:

2.1. We demand better management of our water resources and the loss of millions of litres of water.

The community of Kruisfontein has always taken great pride in the water resources found in the area. The community has been sustained with its own water resources for decades and the proud history of fountains found in the area synonymous with its name Kruisfontein.

The community were taken aback when the Municipality started drilling for water in their backyard without consulting the community and furthermore water is being pumped to the Humansdorp Water Treatment in the Industrial Area surpassing the 25kLPH municipal water treatment plant at the Kruisfontein Water Treatment well capable of treating this water. The community hereby needs to be clarified as to why water is being pump all the way to the Industrial Area and then it must be pumped all the way back to Kruisfontein from the Industrial via Graslaagte, Johnson Ridge, Gill Marcus and Kruisfontein Water treatment Plant. The natural flow of water is downstream and not uphill as is the case currently. Pumps are being worked overtime with loadshedding causing more problems with generators faultier than anything else. The question here is why could water not be pumped from Kruisfontein Proper Area to the Kruisfontein Water Plant and then allowing gravity to take over to flow downhill from the Water Treatment in Kruisfontein all the way to the Industrial via Gill Marcus, Johnson Ridge and Graslaagte. The reticulation is questionable and is causing the system to work harder and it is more costly. The residents of Ward 4 are aggrieved by this as a simple re-address of the system will be more effective to all areas and not only Ward 4.

Maintenance of system and effective management of the boreholes. The community of the Jeugkamp were shocked to see 1000s of litres of water running in the street at a time that there was no water in their taps. Replacement of a pump took more than three months leading to about 36

000 litres of water being wasted daily. The Kruisfontein Plant a fully automated system needs to be operated manually that is subjected to a lot of human error simply because the system is not being maintained that results in the community to be without water. The failure here is on the I&E department and the residents of Ward 4 are ultimately being punished for this simple oversight after millions have been spent to have an automated system in place. The community also need the Municipality to clarify it on the diagrams and blueprints of the water system as there is currently rumours that our water is going to a private company from the recent exploration of boreholes in Kruisfontein hence the route via Industrial.

2.2. Upgrading of gravel roads in Ward 4

Kruisfontein is one of the oldest areas in the whole of Kouga Municipality, yet it is the poorest looked after when it comes to road infrastructure. We saw a portion of Felix and Human Street being tarred in the previous administration but roads as Williams Street remains untouched which is the only viable road to access Die Berg. The continuous damaged to boreholes and the overflow of the elevated tank near the N2 is causing further damage with the run-off straight onto Williams Street. Streets including Williams, Fleur, Floors and the Jeugkamp are mostly without gravel and the black sand are being exposed. Erosion is the order of the day as roads resembles more like river. The informal settlements of Hopeville, Donkerhoek and Mooiuitsig hardly knows what a grader looks like. The taxi's refuse to enter Mooiuitsig because of the condition of the roads there and the few that are willing are charging R25 the equivalent of a trip from Humansdorp to Jeffreys Bay. Areas that joined the choir is the Klipstraat and Die Kop area that has seldom seem their roads being touched for the last 7 years or so.

2.3. Basic Services must be delivered in Die Berg

As per the last paragraph special mention has been made of the condition of Williams Street that is often an excuse as to why vehicles can not access Die Berg. The road is so inaccessible that emergency vehicles cannot reach the area. The basic service like refuse collection is a luxury in Die Berg and these residents are not serviced at all. The constituency makes provision for rich and poor to be served irrespective whether they contribute to the fiscal of the Municipality. Informally it is being said that Die Berg does not pay rates and taxes hence they are not being served. The community of The Berg can not only be good enough for voting but needs the attention of the Municipality and deserve to be served just as another community in the Kouga Municipality.

2.4. Proper sanitation facilities needed in Informal Settlements of Hopeville, Donkerhoek and Mooiuitsig

It is a disgrace for a people to be on the bucket system in a new form called a chemical toilet. The SLA of the contractor states clearly:

1.2.1. Cleaning Operation

1.2.1.1 The Service Provider shall be required to advise the relevant Council representative(s) who are monitoring this contract of the time of arrival on site of the cleaning team to enable the Council representative(s) to monitor the operation.

1.2.1.2. Emptying of toilets must be performed with a suction tanker vehicle suitable to perform the function.

1.2.1.3. Vehicles to be used must transport effluent in a safe and non-offensive manner.

1.2.1.3. All effluent removed from chemical toilets shall be deposited at the waste water treatment works (each town has a treatment plant).

1.2.1.4. A record of the number of chemical toilets serviced, including location/address shall be kept by the service provider and provided to the representative of the Employer on a daily basis.

1.2.2. Disposal of Material

The waste material shall be removed and transported to the Waste Water Treatment Works.

Successful bidder must apply for disposal permit. Rates for the discharge of effluent will be charged as per Council approved tariffs.

The above is totally not being attended to. The contractor is not attending to the cleaning twice a week as stipulated and further to that no suction truck is being used, instead a bucket with a JoJo tank and workers emptied the bowl with a small container throwing it in a bucket that is eventually being thrown in a JoJo tank on top of the bakkie. The task is being in right in the community where at times children admires the act and are being exposed to such an inhumane manner of disposing of sewerage. The National standard for a share toilet mostly uses all the time is 1 seat to 20 we are standing at 1 to 65 which is a violation to the rights if these residents. We are demanding that these residents be move to a waterborne sewerage system and be provided with flush toilets. The community of Hopeville does have an existing sewerage line at the back of Hopeville that can help them in this regard. The community is demanding the removal of the contractor as it is currently in breach of contract and the community is suffering at large.

The community of Donkerhoek is currently receiving 93 toilets out of 363 which is welcome but not ideal. The community are aware that these funds are being provided by The Provincial Department of Human Settlement and wants to know why no internal funding from Kouga Municipality are being used for such purposes. IDP meetings has been dominated with requests on these and yet the Municipality is failing to address the issue.

2.5. Subsidy to register ERWENS in Die Berg and Kruisfontein Proper

The communities of Die Berg and Kruisfontein are demanding that the municipality assist them with transferring property which is currently in the second and third generation but still in the name of the previous generations. The huge cost of Surveyors when it comes to subdividing property also needs to be investigated in terms of a subsidy that can be provided by the Municipality to assist the residents of these areas.

2.6. The immediate stop of blocking of Prepaid Electricity Accounts and the write off for informal settlements.

Residents of Kouga rocked to the Municipal offices in Humansdorp few weeks ago to get into financial arrangements for their municipal accounts. Many of these residents were from informal settlements and had no idea how their accounts accumulated to R1000s. The communities in the informal settlement are demanding that their accounts be cleared a roadshow be conducted in the different communities to explain the fees being charge and that their accounts be rosetted and they only be billed once water meters are being installed in their yards. Residents are also of the opinion that the breadline of R4000 is too low and need to be reconsider as many that are not making ends meet earns more than R4000 and therefore are unable to apply to be consider an indigent. The community wants this to be increase to at least R6000.

2.7. Community Hall for the residents of Ward 4

Ward 4 is one of the biggest wards in the Municipality and is quite vast, yet the community are without a hall and needs to travel to ward 5 to be accommodated. The lack of a hall further prevents residents from attending important meetings of the municipality. The community has a need to have a hall and feels with the recent 391 project a great opportunity was missed to have such a vital building in Ward 4 that can even be use as a Voting District for Election purposes.

2.8. Adequate lighting and cameras in the whole of Ward 4 to increase security.

Crime continues to be a huge problem for Humansdorp in general and Ward 4 is no exception here. The community has been requesting high mast lights with each IDP as well as security cameras to combat crime. Residents feels unsaved and often needs to venture into areas where there is no lights. Streetlights are not replaced when reported that are faulty and needs the urgent attention of the municipality. Informal Areas are also very dense and

need adequate lighting as gangster elements often moves in the night and can easily move undetected in darker areas.

2.9. Access to land for Emerging Farmers

The farmers of Kruisfontein have requested land for years for their cattle that often get impounded for straying. The community are very upset in a decision to allocate a huge portion of ERF 2 to Chief Maarman that never lived in Kruisfontein. The community demands to know how council came to such a decision and why the residents of Kruisfontein were not consulted on this. ERF 2 is huge and remains a viable option for the farmers of Kruisfontein. The Municipality also need to address the issue of fences from neighbouring farmers that is not maintaining the fences which allows for cattle to roam free on their property that often results in impounding right on the farm. A new trend is also that of bikers in the Kruisfontein area that cuts off fencing that also result in cattle moving into neighbouring farms and also as far as the golf course. The Vaaldam area near the farms are completely without a fence. Fences are then further cut in Die Berg by the bikers and an urgent intervention is needed by the Municipality otherwise the farmers of Kruisfontein will continue to lose cattle through the means of impounding. The Municipality also needs to invest in a Municipal impound in Die Berg area that can provide a simple solution to farmers.

2.10. Playparks for children

OUR CHILDRENS RIGHT TO PLAY

Section 10 of the Children's Act 2005 states: "Any child that is of such of age, maturity or stage of development such that is able to participate in any matter concerning that child has a right to participate in an appropriate way and views expressed by that child must be given due consideration."

It is sad that the only Play Park in Ward 4 situated in Gill Marcus has been vandalized and no effort has been made to erect more playparks. Extension 391 that not making any provision for Play Parks and areas such as Jeugkamp and Kruisfontein are also without a functional play park. Children need to be occupied and a play park plays a huge role in this. The Municipality needs to realize if a child is stimulated it will minimize the chances of such a child going stray, which has become a norm in Humansdorp.

2.11. Development of SMME's

It is sad that the SMME's are not being developed as set out in a Policy by the municipality. Tenders often goes to companies outside of the municipality and seldom does the municipality creates opportunist for local SMME's to develop them and to allow them to grow to eventually participate in the mainstream economy. The recent situation with a water shortage in our ward resulted in service providers being contracted and Nu Plant benefitted handsomely from the ordeal. No plan was put in place to develop a local entrepreneur to benefit from this. The recent water pipeline project also failed to address the growth of our SMMEs and in many cases our SMMEs are not even being upgraded in the CIDB system because of small packages that makes growth impossible. The Municipality needs to address this urgently and set guidelines that will guarantee the growth of SMME's.

2.12. Re-allocation of beneficiaries in Informal Settlements

It is a great concern that beneficiaries of ERWENS in informal settlements are leasing out this property and not living here. The beneficiary applied because they had a need and yet they opted to hire the plot plus structure they erected to a person often in a position that can't afford it but due to their desperation opts to pay the rental demanded. We the community demand that an assessment be done in Hopeville, Mooiuitsig and Donkerhoek to determine which plots are empty, which are occupied and more importantly who leases it illegal. We further demand a process where new beneficiaries are allocated to ERWENS where beneficiaries found themselves guilty of illegal leasing out of these properties. The need for houses is ever increasing and the Municipality needs to look in allocating land for the purpose of an informal settlement to address the housing need while we wait for the formal processed to unfold to build RDP houses.

We are looking forward to your prompt response on our demands as stipulated above.

Signed By

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Sandile Daniels-Dlamini
Chairperson
Ward 4 Action Group