

PROPOSED REGULATIONS THREATEN QUALITY EDUCATION

DA Leader says more incentives needed for teachers, not less



Within our failing public education system, the Minister of Basic Education, Angelina Motshelga, seems to have noticed that there are some good public schools - and she has decided to punish them.

The Minister has proposed regulations to restrict even further the ability of public schools to pay good teachers extra in order to retain their services.

Mrs Motshelga wishes to pass new regulations under Section 38A of the 1996 South African Schools Act. We believe she is trying to smuggle in new legislation through the back door, thus avoiding taking the matter through Parliament. She intends "making regulations relating to the payment of unauthorised remuneration or the giving of financial benefit or benefit in kind to certain state employees".

In other words, if parents at

a public school wish to retain an excellent maths teacher by using their own money to pay her a bit extra, Mrs Motshelga wants to make it much more difficult to do so. Even under the present system, the department has not got the capacity to manage relatively simple arrangements. The vastly more onerous and complex arrangement that Mrs Motshelga is now proposing, is clearly designed to prevent paying extra to teachers wherever possible.

The consequences for public schools are obvious. If these regulations are implemented, there will be a further exodus of good teachers and it will become even more difficult to attract qualified young people into education. Many parents would move their children out of the public school system. Fee paying parents are essential in a public education system because they cross-subsidise poorer learners

and bring a wealth of expertise to the governance of the school system.

Our teachers need more incentives, not fewer. On the basis of performance evaluations, there should be no restrictions on the "top-ups" that good public schools can offer to excellent teachers with money raised by the parents, who contribute so greatly to public education to the benefit of all.

Instead of driving quality out of public education, Mrs Motshelga should apply her mind to how to attract good teachers to poor schools. Using state money for such incentives would be far more productive than spending vast sums on a bureaucracy designed to prevent any teacher or school performing better than the rest. SADTU would vigorously oppose such initiatives - but they would be a true example of affirmative action designed to improve the quality of education for the poor.

So desperate are South African parents to find decent education for their children that at our few good public schools there are scores of applicants for every place. The ANC must stop interfering with the schools that work and instead try to improve the many that don't.

In our education system, the DA believes that the educational interests of children come first. Good teachers believe this too. We want all children to get a decent education, and the way to do this is to give teachers all the incentives we can to inspire them to excellence.

[An extract from Helen Zille's weekly newsletter, SA Today, 11 September 2009]

i DA itshala izihlahla eMpumalanga



DA Cllr Nomathemba Phungula, and DA Constituency MP, Gareth Morgan, recently planted a vegetable garden for the local community in Mpumalanga, outside Durban. They also donated trees to schools in the area.

i DA itshala izihlahla eMpumalanga

Ngenyanga kaSeptemba i DA itshala izihlahla ezikoleni ezimbili eMpumalanga ngaseThekwini.

Esikoleni iKhalawemuke Junior Primary, izingane zakuthokozela ukuthola izihlahla kuKhansela Nomathemba Phungula. Izingane zamba imigodi zaphinde zaqinisekisa ukuthi izihlahla ziyathelelwa.

"Emphakathini wami aziziningi izihlahla, okwenza ukuthi ehlobo izingane zingabi nayo indawo yokuphumula zikhosele umthunzi. Ngitshala izihlahla ngenhloso yokwenza indawo yethu ukuba ibukeke kahle futhi ihehe nezinyoni ezikoleni", kusho uKhansela Phungula.

E-Ingede Senior Primary, ilunga lePhalamende uGareth Morgan, unikele waphinde watshala izihlahla. Ngesikhathi enza lokho ubesizwa amalunga e DA kanye nezingane zesikole. Ube esekhuluma nezingane zesikole ngokubaluleka kokuvikela imvelo.

"Izingane zabuza imibuzo eminingi futhi emihle, zifuna ukwazi kabanzi ngokubaluleka kokuvikela imvelo, kusho uMorgan."

Ingadi/insimu yemifino emphakathini

Umphakathi ubonga i DA

ngokunikezela ngokudla

I Khansela leDA, uNomathemba Phungula kanye noGareth Morgan oyilunga lePhalamende, banikezele ngezitshalo kanye nembewu engadini entsha yemifino eMpumalanga, ngaseThekwini. Ngokubambisana namalunga omphakathi batshale imifino engadini yomphakathi eyakhele ihholo i Mpumalanga Hall.

"Kuyasithokozisa ukubona ilunga lePhalamende lisebenza kanye nathi", kusho umholi womphakathi. "Usisiza kakhulu ukuba sikwazi ukunikezela ukudla emindenini yethu".

Kulengadi kutholakala utamatisi kanye nopelepele. Ibeyelwe ukuze igcineke ivikelekile.

"Wonke umuntu kubalulekile ukuthi afunde ukutshala ukudla", kusho uKhansela Phungula. "Iningi labantu kulendawo abaqashiwe, okwenza kube nzima ukuthi bakwazi ukuthenga ukudla ezitolo. Kuyangithokozisa ukuthi i DA ikwazi ukusiza abantu ukuba bazutshalele ukudla", kuqhuba uKhansela Phungula.

I DA ifisa ukuba isize neminye imiphakathi ngaloluhlelo lokusungula izingadi zemifino.

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DA TACKLES FIELD'S HILL HEAVIES

Truckers say they use M13 to avoid the Toll Plaza



Cllr Warwick Chapman has been part of a broad DA team addressing the issue of trucks on the M13

Every year millions of Rands and thousands of hours of productivity are lost as a result of accidents on Field's Hill. Due to the design of the road, which includes several sharp corners and very little camber, Field's Hill is wholly unsuitable for the use of heavy trucks. The road was realigned in 1960 and the new road base was designed to carry vehicles weighing less than 10 tons.

Truckers interviewed by DA councillors, local businessmen and officials of the Road Traffic Inspectorate have said the main reason they use the M13 is to avoid the toll fee.

Of greater concern is that some truckers also say they use the road to avoid the weigh bridge at Mariannhill. This means that many truckers whose vehicles are overloaded are choosing to use the M13, which is unsuitable for carrying their trucks and cargo.

Additionally, a traffic survey conducted recently at the request of local businesses has found that the difference

in cost of using the two routes is negligible even when the cost of the toll fee is included. In fact, in most cases the cost of using the M13 is more expensive.

For example, in the case of a fully loaded 6x4 truck-tractor and interlinks travelling from Grayleigh to Key Ridge, the cost of using the M13 is R397.85, which is 5.4% more than the cost of using the N3 at R376.29.

The ideal scenario would see a total ban on trucks over 10 tons from using the road, but until all attempts to provide for the safe use by 'heavies' have been exhausted, officials say that banning cannot reasonably be considered. Indeed, the stop at the top of Field's Hill and improved policing by RTI and Durban Metro police has already seen a slight improvement over the second half of 2009.

Various measures proposed

DA Councillor, Warwick Chapman, and local businessmen, Hans and Wolfgang Beier, have been

working with the KZN Department of Transport to develop a set of measures to improve safety on Field's Hill. They are motivating for the following measures to be put in place:

- an enforced stop under the bridge at the top of the hill which is regularly policed to ensure that drivers gear down and do not use their brakes instead.

- a solid white line limiting trucks to the leftmost lane up and down the hill, and a prohibition on overtaking. The precedent for this measure is Peter Brown Drive on Town Hill in Pietermaritzburg.

- a speed restriction of 40 or 50kph in the leftmost lane and enforcement with cameras, especially on the down route.

"In the event that the measures we are taking do not result in success then the DA will put an informed motion before the eThekweni council to support a request to the KZN Department of Transport to close the M13 to heavies for good," said Councillor Chapman.

MP takes issue to Parliament

In related news, DA MP, Gareth Morgan, recently raised the issue of trucks using the M13 in parliament. He asked, among other things, whether the Minister of Transport would consider moving the Mariannhill Toll Plaza on the N3 closer to Hammarsdale to prevent trucks from diverting onto the M13 to avoid the toll. The Minister, Sbu Ndebele, did not engage with the question in any substantial way, saying that various options were being considered, and that effective law enforcement on the M13 would minimise diversions.

Petition for action

DA Councillor, Terence Palmer, has been running a petition by local residents who want action from government on the Field's Hill issue. The number of signatories is growing steadily and will be used to show the overwhelming frustration of people living in the upper Highway area.

DA LAUNCHES WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE WATCH

New ANC government wastes more than R318 Million of taxpayers money

The Democratic Alliance is shocked by the culture of wasteful government expenditure. The party recently began a "Wasteful Expenditure Monitor" that has revealed at least R318 million in wasteful expenditure. "We have launched this monitor because very often the needs of the ANC elite are put before the needs of ordinary South Africans," said DA MP Lindiwe Mazibuko.

By comparison, the new DA government in the Western Cape has instituted a number of austerity measures. Among

other things, the provincial ministers may only drive pre-used cars from the government pool.

President Jacob Zuma follows promises to the poor with a R75 million inauguration party.

KwaZulu-Natal Premier Zweli Mkhize's inauguration party cost the taxpayer R10.6 million.

The Minister of Police's stay at a five star Durban hotel, cost the taxpayer in excess of R500 000.00

Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshelga has, at a cost of approximately R6 million, scrapped hundreds of thousands of specially watermarked papers for matric certificates, so that new ones with a larger South African coat of arms can be printed instead.

R16 million - 147 would-be artisans were employed by the Department of Public Works. However, instead of promised apprenticeships, they

reportedly ended up "play[ing] cards in the sun, braid[ing] each other's hair and [sleeping]", while taking home a monthly salary.

The KwaZulu-Natal government can't explain the waste of R10-million on "a commission of inquiry into ineffective policing", from 2005 that produced no results - not even a final report.

It has been established that the Department of Correctional Services

spent R5 million in the 2008/2009 financial year on adverts.

R6 million spent on an eThekweni website for the World Cup.

R40 million has been spent on ministerial vehicles.

To put R318 million into perspective, this money could have been used to pay the salaries of 2834 public school teachers for a whole year.

Outer West Roundup

Cycle Track Repair

Residents will have noticed that the cycle track along Link Road is being repaired. The dangerous sections that have cracked and have lifted are being removed to make way for a new surface. The funding for this project was sourced from the block sum allocated to each ward and was listed as one of the priority projects that DA Councillor, Tex Collins, motivated for. The track is used by many residents who walk to and from their places of employment and their homes.

Bridle Road Upgrade

The upgrade of the Bridle/Kloof Falls road is now almost complete. Councillor Collins thanks residents for being patient. "I think the wait has been worth it, as the new surface is magnificent". The new surface has resulted in some motorists travelling at higher speeds resulting in several accidents. Councillor Collins has asked the municipality for some form of traffic calming measures to be installed, however the municipality says the road does not meet the necessary criteria for traffic calming. He will however continue his efforts to have them installed.

Rates and Electricity

Many residents of the Outer West have been very badly affected by the huge increases in their rates. Councillor Collins, who is also a member of the eThekweni Exco, says that the municipality has been unsympathetic to those residents who have had difficulty paying the increased amounts, and some residents have subsequently had their electricity disconnected. But Collins says the practice is illegal, based on a recent NERSA ruling. He urges any ratepayer who has a dispute with the municipality over their rates billing to contact him so that he can assist them to find solutions to their particular issue.

Cumec Park

Many Waterfall residents have been complaining about the overgrown stand owned by the Education Department known as Cumec Park. Efforts by Councillor Collins to acquire the land for a community facility have thus far failed. However, there is light at the end of the tunnel, as new discussions with the Public Works Dept have produced some encouraging results. A method to acquire the land for community use may well soon be found.

NEW CONSTITUENCY MP FOR WEST DURBAN

Oxford graduate excited about the new challenges ahead

Gareth Morgan has been appointed as the new DA MP for West Durban following the recent elections. He began his career in the National Assembly in 2004 as the Parliamentary Counsellor to the Leader of the Opposition, before going on to become the DA Spokesperson on Health. He is currently the Shadow Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs.

Morgan, a product of Westville Boys' High, attended the University of Natal (PMB) where he completed a BCom and a Honours degree in politics. Thereafter he won the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship, which allowed him to complete two further degrees at Oxford University in the United Kingdom.

He is also the Vice-Chair of

the DA in KZN and a facilitator on the DA's Young Leaders' Programme.

Morgan is one of South Africa's representatives to the Global Legislators' Organisation for a Balanced Environment, and serves on the environmental advisory committee to the South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He is a Life Fellow of the Emerging Leaders' Programme run by the Southern African Centre for Leadership and Public Values.

In his spare time he is a keen runner, and has completed four Comrades Marathons.

"I am excited to be working in the area where I grew up," said Morgan. "I look forward to addressing many of the challenges this constituency faces."



New DA MP for West Durban, Gareth Morgan, is the Shadow Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs. He is seen above at an inspection of the Kloof SPCA.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MANAGEMENT PLAN WELCOME

DA calls for transferable development rights to be explored



Your local DA public representatives and DA volunteer team have been hard at work greening and cleaning in West Durban.

A proposal that the D'Moss boundary becomes a component of the various town planning schemes in the city has been proposed by the eThekweni Municipality. This would involve adding another layer onto the GIS maps, enabling people to understand the development constraints of a property before purchasing or planning to develop a piece of land. The proposal says that

while development on affected land might not be altogether prohibited, it can only happen with the consent of the Council. D'Moss, which was originally an acronym for the Durban Metropolitan Open Space System, is now called the eThekweni Environmental Services Management Plan.

The Outer West is the area most affected by this proposal as there is still much undeveloped land. Some land owners are angry at the

perceived withdrawal of their development rights but many support the idea of preserving the environment for current and future generations.

"The DA supports the preservation of our environmental heritage and appreciates the importance of the goods and services it provides," says Councillor Gill Noyce. "We hope that the policy, among other things, will enhance our water security."

"We understand the

disappointment that some people will face when their expectations are not met," says Noyce. "We urge the Council to adopt a case by case approach which should address both suitability and precedent".

During the consultation process on this proposal the DA has been advocating for compensation through the conferral of additional rights and wants the concept of transferable development rights to be explored.

DURBAN'S LEAKING TAP SYNDROME

39% of our water lost through leaks or theft



Southern Africa has the potential to become one of the world's most productive breadbaskets but for one major problem - a serious shortage of water in some of the most fertile areas. More than 98% of the country's surface water as already been allocated to users.

Water is a world-wide problem but in South Africa the problem is particularly acute. We face a water crisis as increasing competition between its various uses and users puts pressure on the planet's most indispensable natural resource.

Water users in eThekweni municipality have already realised the supply of cheap water is over. Heavy users are being financially penalised and the money used to provide a better service to the poor. Fair or not, from July new water tariffs stung those who are considered "water guzzlers" because they live in high value properties.

Consumers in Durban must learn to use water sparingly and with respect. DA Councillor, Peter Davis, says however, that the municipality must jack up its own house if it is to have any credibility with water consumers. "As it

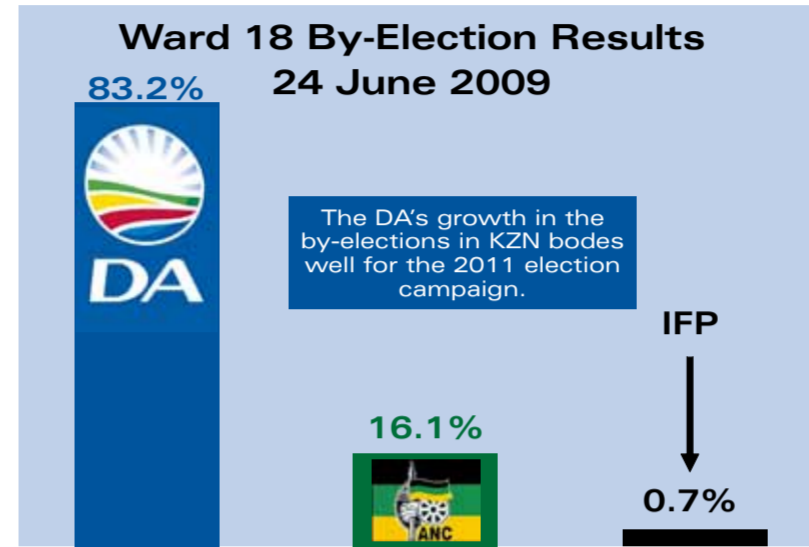
stands, 39% of all water bought from the Umgeni Water Board is lost, either through leaks or theft," says Davis. "This water loss costs the council around R150m each year".

The result is ever-increasing water hikes for those consumers who pay. It is these same paying consumers who also have to cover the almost R100m in bad debts.

Council contractors are laying new pipes all around the city, but even so, if the drought cycle hits us, as is expected, the city will face water restrictions by 2011. "It is time to buy those rainwater tanks before the taps run dry," says Davis.

DA WINS BIG IN RECENT ELECTIONS

Momentum following national elections continues



The DA is on a roll. The recent general elections resulted in the DA winning almost three millions votes nationally, while in KwaZulu-Natal the party added more than ninety thousand extra votes to its 2004 tally. Most

importantly, the DA won the Western Cape with an outright majority, with DA Leader, Helen Zille, becoming the Premier of the province.

Success for the DA in Westville / Pinetown

The momentum has continued with the DA winning a score of by-elections across the country, all with increased majorities, including a by-election in Ward 18 (Westville North, Cowies Hill, Pinetown CBD).

The new DA candidate for the ward, Warwick Chapman, won the ward with a majority of 83.2% for the DA. This was an improvement on the 77.7% majority received by the DA in the 2006 local government elections.

Councillor Chapman did not waste any time in getting down to work, and has already been dubbed by a local newspaper as "Mr Fix-it".

More by-elections wins in KZN

In other recent local government by-elections in KZN, the DA retained its seats

in Durban North (74.6% DA majority), Umhlanga (91.5%) and Pietermaritzburg (90.5%). DA Acting Provincial Leader, Sizwe Mchunu MPL, said that the recent DA by-election victories in KZN indicated that the party was well poised to deliver on its promise to the KZN electorate to build the alternative government to the ANC as we approach the 2011 local government elections.

Nationally the trend is the same

An analysis of other by-election results from around the country reveals that the DA is increasing its support in all communities. The DA has won by-elections in wards in Ceres (59.3%), East London (50.7%), Bloemfontein (85.9%), Johannesburg (92.6%) and Port Elizabeth (99%). Recent by-elections results also show that support for COPE has dropped dramatically since the national

elections.

Forward to the 2011 and 2014 elections

The DA has established itself as a genuine competitor to the ANC. The DA government in the Western Cape has already displayed its willingness to deal with inefficient and corrupt officials, which stands in stark contrast to the ANC's protection of cronies and its jobs-for-pals approach to government. For the first time voters will be able to make a real comparison between the performances of the DA and the ANC in provincial government.

The politics of South Africa is shifting, and the future looks bright for the DA. The party is set to achieve even greater success in the 2011 local government elections and the 2014 national elections.

ALIEN INVASIVES ALONG RAILWAY LINE A DISGRACE

DA councillor seeking a long term solution



DA Cllr. Gill Noyce and the team cleaning along the railway line

The invasive alien vegetation along the railway line in the Upper Highway area is nothing short of a disgrace. This is the view of DA Councillor, Gill Noyce, who is engaging with Transnet to find a sustainable solution.

"Transnet know that they are responsible for the line and by law they have to keep it clean," says Noyce. "For years they have given out contracts to cut the vegetation but they have never succeeded in poisoning the alien vegetation or getting it under control".

A small committee chaired

by Councillor Noyce is attempting to tackle the issue with Transnet. A successful meeting with four Transnet officials has resulted in an application to get the tender to clear a section of the line. This application has been lodged by the Chairperson of Keep Hillcrest Beautiful, since the application needed to come from a community organisation.

A member of the Camelot Conservancy has provided the technical input and much of the motivation, while a resident who lives close to the railway line came up with the

idea of engaging Transnet on finding a solution.

Finding a sustainable solution to the Gillitts railway station is also a matter that will be pursued with Transnet. The vacant station building has been vandalised, and is being inhabited by vagrants. "Renovating the building and finding a new tenant will go a long way to improving the security of nearby homes," says DA MP Gareth Morgan.

In related news Councillor Noyce has organised for the municipality's "Green Durban" campaign to be taken to Drummond. The Parks Department has embarked on a campaign to plant more trees to offset the carbon footprint of the FIFA World Cup. Councillor Noyce has facilitated contact between the Parks Department and the Drummond Conservancy so that the Conservancy can identify appropriate sites for the new trees. "More sites will be identified in time," says Noyce. "Tree planting is an activity that raises the spirits of local residents."

NEW CRIME STATS: NOTHING TO CHEER ABOUT

DA Shadow Minister of Police raises urgent issues



DA Shadow Minister of Police Dianne Kohler-Barnard MP

The crime statistics for the period April 2008 to March 2009 were released in September. Nationally they paint a picture of a country that continues to face a high level of violent crime. The local picture is no different.

In the various areas serviced by Hillcrest police station and its satellite stations, there were 57 carjackings, 127 sexual crimes, 47 murders and 826 burglaries at residential premises during the twelve month reporting period. Drug related crimes increased to 183 incidents from 83 during the same period.

Responding to the release of the statistics, the DA Shadow Minister of Police, Dianne Kohler-Barnard, said

that the statistics revealed a serious decline in the crime outlook for South Africa. "The ANC releases crime statistics to the public when it suits them, rather than in the manner that will best assist researchers and the public in responding to crime," said Kohler-Barnard.

The DA has been tackling numerous issues in recent months that directly affect the SAPS' ability to fight crime. The DA is fiercely opposing a draft national instruction on the South African Reserve Police Service which will significantly disempower reservists.

The party has also submitted a Private Members Bill to Parliament to strengthen and empower the police watchdog, the Independent Complaints Directorate. In the 2008-2009 financial year there were 6119 complaints against police nationwide.

Among other things, the DA has been fighting for the vacancies in the forensic laboratories to be filled. The forensic test backlog grew by 94% between June 2007 and January 2009. The party is also pursuing measures to reduce the number of firearms lost by the SAPS. In the 2008-2009 financial year 2507 weapons were lost or stolen, up by 30% on the previous year.

The DA will be conducting audits of police stations in West Durban during November to ascertain the shortages in personnel and resources.

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NEW TAR ROAD FOR MADEMENI



DA Cllr Tex Collins inspects the progress being made in the construction of the first tar road in eMademeni.

Construction of the first tar road for the community of eMademeni started recently. DA Councillor, Tex Collins, was able to obtain a R7.5m Municipal Infrastructure Grant from the provincial government to complete this project.

"This particular road is the only one in and out of the community, and is widely used by taxis that transport members of the community," said Councillor Collins. "Unfortunately, during the

wet season the road becomes impassable leaving the residents stranded and having to walk long distances to get to their places of work."

The construction work has provided jobs for many people in eMademeni. "For such an impoverished community, this project has provided much needed relief. For the first time in many years, people have a little cash in their pockets, making their lives that little bit easier," said Collins.