

Purpose of letter was to tarnish DA

I REFER to the letter by Clinton Govender published on August 5.

I write as councillor for Ward 30, which includes parts of Bonela, Mayville, Cato Crest, Sherwood and Westville.

I do not recall ever having engaged a person by the name “Clinton Govender” about Bonela issues. His name does not appear in my cellphone or email records, on registers of numerous community meetings or on any of the 15 Bonela-based community WhatsApp groups that I am part of.

It seems unlikely “Clinton Govender” is even a real person, much less that he saw me “shrug” when he raised an issue with me.

As far as commercial activities of the company known as Multi Sands at Bonela Secondary School are concerned, I share the frustrations of residents in regard to the nuisance and disturbance created by those activities, and by

the passage of heavy 16-ton trucks laden with sand, coming into and out of Bonela.

By the way, Multi Sands is not a “construction company”. It brings sand to the school premise, sifts it into various grades and removes it from the site. I have sent about six emails to the municipality’s land use management department about the activities of Multi Sands at the school. On June 21 last year, I was informed by email that a “Section 79 Notice” had been issued and the matter had been “logged for enforcement”.

On November 14, I was informed in an email from the municipality: “Council has served notice on the school, especially the Department of Public Works who are the custodians of all government land.

“Unfortunately it is not possible to take Public Works to court to stop an illegal activity that

the school governing body has allowed at a time when the MEC is encouraging schools to find ways to supplement their income by leasing out facilities.

“We, however, continue to engage the relevant officials with the intention of resolving not only the Bonela issue but the many other illegally used schools in eThekweni.”

Further emails were sent to the municipality on December 19 and on February 12 and March 13, all without response. What more can a councillor do on this specific issue?

It is clear the main purpose of the letter is to take a dig at the DA.

The idea that I was “parachuted” into the ward I serve is absurd. I have lived at my current address for 17 years. If Govender is a resident, he is welcome to contact me directly.

WARREN BURNE
Ward 30 councillor