

## OUR VIEWPOINT

## A WORD TO THE POLITICIANS

**J**USTICE Mogoeng Mogoeng spoke for all South Africans when he cautioned those politicians who will soon be taking their seats in Parliament.

“May you not betray our people, those who died and suffered to ensure that you may be office bearers, died so that all South Africans may enjoy a meaningful participation in the economy, free-

dom from all forms of prejudice and not that a minority may abuse the hard-earned gains of independence.”

He also warned that all office bearers should at least be competent to do their jobs, and that they should have sufficient resources to do their work. This will have particular resonance in Pietermaritzburg in the light of events of the past few

days. On Tuesday night, residents of a city hostel put up burning barricades and marched on City Hall because their electricity had been cut off by Msunduzi Municipality. The reason? The Department of Human Settlements, which in theory is responsible for the hostel, had not paid its bill.

On the other side of town, the Alexandra Road police station had its electricity cut off by the mu-

nicipality. The reason? The Department of Public Works had not paid its bill.

These are not mere hitches. They represent the result of a long chain of uselessness, neglect, bad appointments, bad systems, zero oversight and responsibility all the way to the minister, and of course the looting which has directed state funds into the pockets of thieves and tenderpreneurs.

“We dare not be defocused from the primary responsibility of ensuring that our people do not continue to swim in the injustices of the past,” said Mogoeng.

The callous violence inflicted on city residents by bungling bureaucrats this week ensures that everyone swims not only in the injustices of the past, but in the broken sewers of the present.