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become today irreversible, resulting in extreme weather conditions like droughts, floods and heat-waves.

The future depends on us humans, not the weather.

MOHAMED SAEED | Pietermaritzburg

KZN's schools have become war zones

KWAZULU-NATAL's schools have become war zones as rioting and burning of property over incidents such as confiscation of cellphones take over.

Then there are the frequent incidents of vandalism, robbery, stabbings and shootings on school premises – all of which have seen a sharp increase.

Part of the problem is a dysfunctional school safety programme under KZN's Department of Education.

The DA has, on numerous occasions, raised its concerns around the severe shortcomings of this pro-

gramme and the tragic result thereof.

It is now critical that Education MEC Mbali Frazer prioritises this matter by ensuring that a functional Extended Public Works-based school safety programme is in place. This is particularly important within our province's so-called hot spots, which must be identified in collaboration with KZN's Department of Community Safety and Liaison.

Further measures must include prioritising efforts to ensure greater parental and community involvement when it comes to ensuring that codes of conduct are adhered to and creating a home environment that fosters values, which will ensure that learners become contributors to a capable, caring and ethical state.

It is time that the MEC and her department prioritise the overall well-being of staff and learners ahead of the many ceremonial duties currently

being undertaken. The stability of our educational institutions and the safety of those within them must come first.

DR IMRAN KEEKA | DA KZN Spokesperson on Education

Ramaphosa escaped load shedding

WHILE the country has just staggered through another brutal weekend of stage 5 and 6 power cuts, Cyril Ramaphosa has fortunately avoided such inconveniences by gallivanting with President Biden in the US and then royalty in the UK. He'll only be back – flying first class – later this week.

And, of course, every Cabinet minister and deputy, including Gwede Mantashe, has also avoided the devastating rolling blackouts with their nifty taxpayer-funded diesel genera-