

Social Justice Coalition Meeting with City of Cape Town Executive Deputy Mayor Ian Nielson to discuss the 2015/2016 budget process as well as the upcoming 2016/2017 budget process

Present: Alderman Nielson (City of Cape Town), Cllr Stuart Diamond (City of Cape Town), Axolile Notywala (Social Justice Coalition); Dustin Kramer (Social Justice Coalition) and Thandeka Kathi (Social Justice Coalition)

Date: 22 April 2016

Axolile Notywala- suggests that we go through the contents of the urgent letter and addendum that he sent to Alderman Nielson. The contents of the letter can be summarised thus:

- The letter sought an explanation from the Deputy Mayor as to why his commitments to a meeting that took place on 2 December 2015 were not fulfilled;
 - The Deputy Mayor had committed to doing the following:
 - responding to all 502 submissions from Khayelitsha individually and that the relevant officials would explain why the 502 submissions were misrepresented by the City of Cape Town as a "focus group";
 - Issuing an apology to the residents of Khayelitsha;
- The Deputy Mayor had acknowledged, in our previous meeting, that the budget process is flawed and committed to discussing ways of fixing it. He had also committed to providing a plan for the provision of sanitation technologies in informal settlements.

Alderman Nielson- explains that responses have been sent to the relevant ward councillors, however he does not address the issue of an apology and explanation.

Dustin Kramer -asks what has been done about this year's budget process as Alderman Nielson and Alderman Stuart Diamond had acknowledged that the process is flawed.

Alderman Nielson- explains that the current participation process through ward committees is sufficient. Alderman Stuart Diamond agrees.

Alderman Nielson- offers to walk us through a power point presentation that he has been presenting to different stakeholders in the Cape Town that shows how the budget process works.

Dustin Kramer- says that we have already seen that specific presentation and would rather have us speak on the way forward with regard to this year's submissions.

Axolile Notywala- raises concerns around the allocation to informal settlements in the 2015/2016 draft budget and the lack of a plan for sanitation in informal settlements.

Alderman Nielson- says that the problems that Khayelitsha face cannot be remedied by a budget. He says that it is the community is preventing the City from providing services because of politics on the ground. He states that they can make R100 million available tomorrow for toilets but they cannot allocate money to projects if they know that they cannot spend it and that community dynamics are the main obstacle to delivery He states that they are reluctant to put out a targeted number in regard to planning should they be held to it. Alderman Stuart Diamond also echoes his frustration at the lack of cooperation from the community.

Axolile Notywala and Dustin Kramer -cannot accept that communities are unwilling to cooperate in their best interests and offer to help the City in its engagements with the community as the Social Justice Coalition has branches in most areas in Khayelitsha.

Alderman Nielson- promises that this year's submissions will be responded to individually. Dustin Kramer, Thandeka Kathi and Axolile Notywala welcome this.

Minutes taken by Thandeka Kathi, SJC.

N.N.A. P.M