

Media Statement

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Portfolio Chairperson: Corporate Services
Representing the City of George on the Garden Route District Council

Racism Accusations: In a word... Bunk!

Sunday, September 5, 2021
19h30

No embargo

At four minutes past one on Thursday, September 2, a Ward 19 constituent reported vagrancy in Dormehlsdrift, where I represent the DA.

I immediately called on the George Municipal Management and was directed to Mr. Siyasanga Vandala, newly appointed head of law enforcement, for official intervention. The conversation was made difficult by poor sound quality. Both Vandala and me complained to each other that it was very difficult the one to hear the other.

Vandala clearly did not yet know his way about the George suburbs and directions were made more difficult by the poor sound quality. The conversation lasted eight minutes and ended before 13h30. By 13h35 SAPS officers dispersed the alleged trespassers, and I withdrew after a few last words with the complainant who had been at my side during the entire Vandala conversation.

I am reliably and happily informed of an affidavit by another who overheard the speaker phone conversation.

Some sixteen hours and a calm night's rest later, at 07h48 on Friday, I received a phone call alerting me that Vandala, Municipal Manager Michelle Gratz, and Director Community Services Alan Paulse were demanding charges against me on the strength of a Vandala claim that I insulted him with an abhorrent racial slur prefixed by a sexually loaded adjective.

This is devoid of any and all velleity of fact. It is a flagrant lie. It is an egregious fabrication. I did not curse Vandala; I did not insult Vandala; I did not demean Vandala. I reported an incident demanding his immediate professional attention and ...

I do have an apology to make: I am the grandmother in a mixed-race family, and I apologise to my beloved grandchildren and my dearest daughter-in-law that they would possibly have to be exposed to some unthinkable allegation that their Ouma had slurred them. How inconceivable of any mind can it possibly be that I would do such an unimaginable thing. How preposterous! How abominable!

For the benefit of the obstinate who would read in this apology some semblance of acknowledgement of the deception and the deceit: I did not curse Vandala, and this apology is to my family for the discomfort caused by the role I play in the oftentimes toxic theatre of local politics.

I apologise, my loves. Ouma apologises. And this insult, my loves, this insult will be met.
END