

# Residents unite in march for improved living

**ALYSSIA BIRJALAL**

THE Clare Estate Ratepayers' Association and Development Forum joined hands with Abahlali baseMjondolo to call for a better standard of living for residents and shack dwellers in the area.

This week, about 4 000 residents marched to the Ash-erville offices of local ward councillor Bhekisane Ngcobo to hand over a memorandum containing a list of their demands.

Ngcobo was not at his office to receive the memorandum, which was then handed to a policeman from the Sydenham police station.

Ngcobo said he was not willing to accept the memorandum as he felt the march was illegal.

"According to me, the march was non-existent. I have checked with the city manager's office and this march was not legal. I therefore do not accept the memorandum and will not be able to do anything further about their demands," he said.

Dennis Pillay, the chairman of the Clare Estate Development Forum and spokesman for the Ratepayers' Association, said findings and statistics show it will take about 60 years to eradicate informal settlements from Clare Estate.

"We have lived with these dwellers without any major problem for 27 years. They live in pain, suffering and misery and we are hoping to help them in achieving their goals," he said.

He said residents that were against the project had no place in Clare Estate.

"They either adapt or pack up and leave. We need to live side by side and build the community.

"If they cannot be part of this, then they should leave South Africa and go back to India," said Pillay.

Abahlali baseMjondolo spokesman Mnikelo Nda-

the first of many.

"Politicians are always using the ratepayers as an excuse to force the poor out of the city. However, we and the ratepayers have agreed on a common programme. We want to build a Clare Estate for all, a Clare Estate where everyone has a decent house, decent services and good schools, where development is democratically decided and everyone feels at home and can enjoy living in safety," said Nda-bankulu.

"A world-class city is not only made up of rich people, but poor as well. We have decided to work together with our counterparts to create a racially integrated society, where the rich live with the poor in harmony," said Nda-bankulu.

He said they would keep pushing the government.

"They are afraid of us. We are powerful and will not stop until we get our desired results," he said.

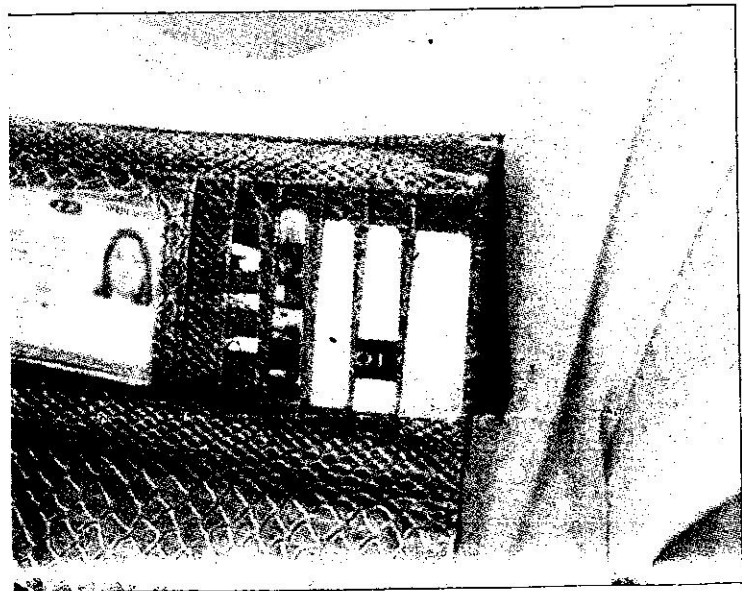
Among the demands from Abahlali baseMjondolo, and supported by Ward 25 ratepayers and civic organisations as well as the local taxi association and some local businesses, were: the municipality buy all the vacant land in Clare Estate and Reservoir Hills and set it aside for housing developments; all shack settlements be fully electrified and until this is done, the armed disconnections by the municipality must stop; the area to be turned into a home residents can be proud of by integrating all shack dwellers into the area with decent housing; there be an immediate end to job reservation for ANC volunteers.

All jobs must be open to everyone without regard for political affiliation, and houses and services must be given to everyone and not only to ANC volunteers.

Metro police's Superintendent Eugene Msomi said the march was legal.



ingh, was assaulted in front of her. Below is the licence stuck in the  
g-of-war. Pictures: NINEY RUTHINAM



24 NOV 2013

but yesterday it all went sour for the tenants - most of

earned more than R10 000 a month, contravening social

the driver to run them over. Police then hosed them with a water cannon, but a woman

done.  
sihle.mlambo@inl.co.za  
bheki.mbanjwa@inl.co.za

## Councillor not available to meet Abahlali marchers

LAUREN ANTHONY

THOUSANDS of Abahlali baseMjondolo members, joined by the Clare Estate Ratepayers' Association, marched to council offices yesterday to hand over a memorandum of demands, only to be informed the councillor was not available to meet the protesters.

The list of demands for councillor Bhikisane Ngcobo included the provision of electricity for all shack settlements, the purchase of vacant land in Clare Estate and Reservoir Hills for housing development, more toilets for Foreman Road settlement, section 21 schools (which manage their own finances) in Sydenham and Reservoir Hills and the resignation of the municipality's head of housing.

Bandle Mdlalose, general secretary of the shack dwellers' movement, said she estimated 4 000 supporters marched from Foreman Road to the offices in Asherville, where they had arranged to meet the councillor. "We handed over the memorandum to the police. Clearly he is scared of us."

Mdlalose said they were originally going to give the councillor 14 days to respond to the demands, but they were now prompted by his actions to hold a community meeting and decide on their next move.

"He doesn't respect his comrades, so why must we give him time?"

She said the march was for the residents of Palmiet, Foreman and Kennedy Road informal settlements, representing between 80 000 and 90 000 people.

Mdlalose said the support of Clare Estate Ratepayers' Association was an important step forward because the municipality had previously refused to develop the informal settlements, saying the ratepayers were not in favour of this.

Dennis Pillay, chairman of the Clare Estate Ratepayers' Association, said they supported the shack dwellers' calls for sanitation, housing, transport and schools, but called for the municipality to communicate with ratepayers.

"We want housing and development, but on our terms."

Pillay said the municipality had reneged on its agreement in July to keep the community informed about the Kennedy Road project that would involve building 85 units in a four-storey block.

"They've already started developing on land that has a history of being unstable. They haven't presented us with plans and we are looking to stop the development."

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## eThekweni promises to build 800 RDP houses

MPUME MADLALA

EIGHT hundred RDP houses are in the pipeline for Kennedy Road Informal Settlement dwellers.

This was the word from city mayor James Nxumalo yesterday during his mayoral media briefing.

He said the city had already identified land in the area for this project and that it was investigating additional pieces of land that would be suitable for the building of houses.

"We are building the 800 units in Kennedy Road so that residents can see that we are doing something as eThekweni. The problem is that people don't want to relocate too far from their places of employment," he said.

Nxumalo, however, said that the city was facing a major problem of migration.

"Metros are facing a huge influx of people coming from rural areas into the city. This is one of the biggest challenges facing the city when it comes to housing," he said.

Rural development was, according to Nxumalo, very important, saying that if rural areas were well developed, it would then reduce and at some point put an end to people from

those areas relocating to the city for job opportunities.

On the issue of the Abahlali baseMjondolo Shackdwellers Movement and the ongoing protests over housing delivery, Nxumalo said that what they wanted people to understand was that the main problem was land and money.

City manager, Sbu Sithole, said that by the end of this financial year they were planning to build over 12 000 units.

Sithole said the number of people coming into the city, reflected how well the city was doing in terms of service delivery.

Spokesman for the shackdwellers movement, Mnikelo Ndabankulu, said they were happy about the city's planned project in Kennedy Road.

Ndabankulu said this was what they had been protesting about all along.

"We must give credit when it is due and say this is a great idea because people want to see development at the end of the day. This housing project will be it," he said.

Ndabankulu said they would also, in the future, want to see similar projects in other informal settlements around the city.

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ing figures to dazzle any treasurer: calculating that the problem and the solution

19-11-2013

Foreman Road Concerned Residents

135 Foreman Road

Clare estate

4091

08 November 2013

EThekwin Municipality Ward 25 Councillor

The Ward Councillor.

Dear Cllr BO Ngcobo,

Re: Request for the Councillor BO Ngcobo to Receive Concerned residents Memorandum

Foreman Road Community and surrounding areas will be marching to the Ward 25 Councilors Offices at Asheville on the 18 November 2013. We will be marching to demand decent land, housing and dignity in our life time.

We request that our local Councillor Bhekisani Ngcobo come and receive our Memorandum of demands on the 18 November 2013 at 12:00pm, in your Offices in Asheville.

Looking forward to see you,

Yours Faithfully,

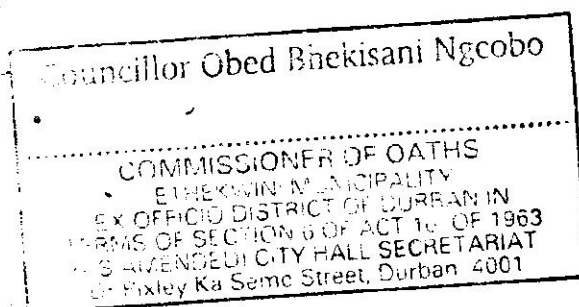
Mr Philani Ntanz

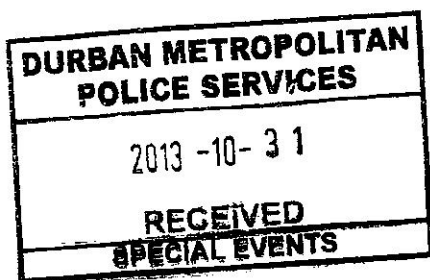
Foreman Road Concerned Residents Secretary General

Handed over by MM. NPABANKULU Received by NGCOCO O.B

Signature: [Signature] Signature: [Signature]

Date: 08/11/2013 Date: 08/11/2013





Foreman Road Concerned Residents

135 Foreman Road

Clare Estate

4091

31 October 2013

The Executive Director

Durban Metropolitan Police service

16 old Fort Place

DURBAN

4000

Ref: Notice for a Legal march

We as concerned residents of Foreman Road, surrounding areas and other supporting communities will be marching to the Local Councilor's office at Asheville for Mr Bhokisani Ngcobo to receive our Memorandum of Demands. The demands are lack of basic services, Land and decent housing for all the shackdwellers.

The March will take place on the 18 November 2013, starting from the Multipurpose center next to the Foreman Road Public toilets, we departure up by Foreman road turn right by Clare road, then turn Left Stanley Copley then left by Roseline Avenue pass the Library straight to the Councilor's Office.

For further enquiries please contact: Faku 081 2633 462: Ndwedwe 073 1959 845 and George 071 7937 645.

Yours Faithful

Mr. S Ndwandwe

Handed over by [Signature]

Time 13H27

Date 31/10/2013

Received by Sharnel [Signature]

Time 13H27

Date 31/10/2013