

## LETTERS

## Ratepayers bled dry by ANC-led council

OUR city will not survive another five years of an ANC controlled council. Every year rates and electricity go up about 25 percent for the people that are least able to afford it, and salaries only go up about 7 percent if you are lucky.

There are only 8.37 percent of residents paying to run this municipality, (3.5 million residents, 350 000 ratepayers 56 000 of those excluded through the social programme leaving 8.37 percent).

Anyone can see that it is unsustainable, anyone that is, except the ANC-led council. And they are the people earning in excess of R1 million, and in the case of our city manager R1.7m.

Krish Kumar recently blamed the economic slowdown for the R440m by which ratepayers are in debt to the city for non payment. The economic slowdown has become a convenient scapegoat, and that excuse should work both ways.

How about, because of the "economic slowdown", we freeze the budget and cut municipal spending instead of raising rates? I would also have an efficiency expert go through every municipal department and make recommendations, as I am certain the municipality is top heavy with dead wood.

It is not right that we write off R98m in hostel debt. That is a poor excuse for someone who did not do their job. And the R14m we recently wrote off for the arrears rent owed by the tenants of the Church Walk market. We have these officials and politicians writing off these large amounts of money as if it was nothing.

Ratepayers now have to pay in excess of R600 000 in court costs because a municipal employee did not do their job correctly during a tender application. There is absolutely no accountability.

Kumar is being disingenuous when he says "the city still maintained a high debt collection rate of 95 percent", the reporter should have asked him how he comes about that number because I know they have their own twisted formulas for arriving at these high percentage rates in their favour, because they claim that almost 20 percent contribute to the running of the city, but you can see from my numbers that they are bending the truth.

The city needs to realise that rates and utilities are not a resident's only expenses, we do not work to support their out of control spending.

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