

What the Sol Plaatje Municipality Mayor had to say on Carte Blanche

Bonita: "Neither the developers, nor the department of environmental affairs was prepared to talk to us before the record of decision was issued. But we did speak to the mayor."

Patrick Lenyiba (Mayor: Kimberley): "When the Northgate company applied for rezoning, we did not hesitate, because what it means for the city it's an economic injection and a growth opportunity for the city, an expansion for the city."

We asked Patrick Lenyibi, the Mayor of the Sol Plaatjie Municipality why the city council approved the rezoning of the land before the EIA had been done.

Patrick: "No, it's always done like that. We don't wait for the EIA. We approved a piece of land, and once the approval is done, then that's it. And most cases we've never had a problem, but I don't where that thing comes from - that, 'Why is the Northgate development going to take place? The flamingoes at Kamfers Dam are going to become a thing of the past'. There's not such a thing."

Bonita: "But how do you know that?"

Patrick: "I know because we took a decision as council."

Bonita: "But because you took a decision as council... now the flamingoes won't fly away? That doesn't make sense."

Patrick: "We do all studies here at the Sol Plaatjie Municipality. We took a decision based on: one, flamingoes are there to stay. Two, Northgate development will go ahead."

Patrick: "That is why Sol Plaatjie Municipality, we are saying, we lay a pipe to the Vaal River"

Bonita: "Ok, how long have you known about this problem?"

Patrick: "We've known about the problem four years ago."

Bonita: "What has the municipality done?"

Patrick: "I repeat, we took an action, appointed a consultant, we're

going to lay a pipe there."

Bonita: "But you haven't laid the pipe yet."

Patrick: "No, we haven't laid the pipe."

Bonita: "And four years later you still haven't laid the pipe."

Patrick: "No, we haven't laid the pipe, but let me tell you, if you can go to Kamfers Dam yourself, the water levels are at an acceptable level. Go to Kamfers Dam yourself."

Jahn: "The quantity of raw sewerage that was bypassing the plant It's quite evident that they would need a complete new plant. We have a serious problem right now! We are poisoning Kamfers Dam."

Patrick: "Kamfers Dam, is it clean water?"

Bonita: "Is it what water?"

Patrick: "Is it clean water that has been discharged into Kamfers Dam?"

Bonita: "No!"

Patrick: "Yes, its treated effluent, am I right?"

Bonita: "Treated effluent and raw sewerage!"

Patrick: "No, there is no raw sewerage."

Bonita: "Excuse me sir, but we saw raw sewerage flowing into the dam."

Patrick: "There's no raw sewerage there."

Patrick: "If one or two or three flamingoes have got swollen legs, you cannot attribute it to Sol Plaatjie, in particular the Homevale plant. It's wrong because those flamingoes have been there for years and no one has ever complained about the swollen legs of the flamingoes."

Patrick: "Any municipality in this country that can chase away a two billion investment just because of flamingoes is a very stupid municipality."