

MOQHAKA OPEN TOILET FURORE

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Attempts to discredit the Moqhaka Municipality over the Rammulotsi open toilet saga have floundered after the SAHRC absolved the municipality

Moqhaka Local Municipality mayor, Jihad Mohapi, has lashed out at the Democratic Alliance (DA) for using the Rammulotsi toilet saga as a political football to score cheap political points ahead of the general elections next year.

Mohapi's comments follow a march led by the DA in the area where the marchers accused the municipality of having failed to enclose all the toilets. However, Mohapi has hit back accusing the DA of misleading the residents.

He said the municipality had made good on its promise to enclose the toilets. He added that the municipality had been vindicated by the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), which has since expressed satisfaction with the progress the municipality has made in enclosing the open toilets in Rammulotsi outside Viljoenskroon.

SAHRC spokesperson, Isaac Mangena, said recently that members of the commission and Moqhaka Local Municipality and human settlements officials inspected the area, outside Viljoenskroon, and were happy with the progress made.

"The primary purpose of the inspection was to determine how both organs of state performed in respect of the implementation of recommendations made by the commission in the Rammulotsi report."

The inspection revealed unscrupulous building contractors had incited residents to demolish existing enclosures, that members of political parties were complicit in demolishing enclosures, and that there was a lack of general awareness regarding enclosed toilets.

The commission found the municipality had enclosed a total of 1 831 toilets. The department enclosed another 253. Only two toilets are in the process of being enclosed. The commission expected this to be done in two to three weeks.

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Residents lodged a complaint with the commission in 2010 after the municipality installed 2293 unenclosed toilets in the area. The revelations led to a national outcry which saw the national leadership of the ANC intervening and instructing the municipality to speedily enclose the toilets. The SAHRC also stepped in to investigate.

[Source: www.theweekly.co.za]