



28 March 2014

The President
International Conference BETTER CITIES FOR BETTER LIFE, Prague 2014
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Czech Republic

Dear Mr Vanek

BETTER CITIES FOR BETTER LIFE CONFERENCE 2014: THE CITY OF CAPE TOWN, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE BLUE-GREEN CONFERENCE BOOKLET

On behalf of the City of Cape Town, I would like to utilise this opportunity to congratulate and thank you for the leadership you are exemplifying in this noble initiative of securing a "Blue and Green Tomorrow".

The City of Cape Town would like to add our voice to this initiative. In this regard I would like to share with you our contribution to the Better Cities for Better Life Conference 2014-Booklet entitled the Blue-Green Booklet, from the Southern tip of the African continent.

Our efforts as a City to manage our environment and in particular air, noise and water pollution, demonstrate our commitment in this regard.

The City of Cape Town is home to approximately 4 million people. It has a vibrant economy, the bulk of which is underpinned by an active tourism industry. It is thus vital for this important economic sector that we monitor, maintain and control the levels of air, noise and water pollution in our City. After all, who would like to take a trip up our iconic Table Mountain, one of the seven New Wonders of the World, only to look out over a smog filled vista!

As a City we face many challenges, not least of which, is the fact that many of the residents of this beautiful City reside in abject poverty in informal settlements. It is thus a City of contrasts. Managing the competing needs of all sectors is extremely challenging. However, uplifting the poor is vital to securing a "Blue and Green Tomorrow". I am thus extremely committed to achieving this objective. In this regard the City has committed an unprecedented portion of its budget to pro-poor infrastructure development and service delivery initiatives.

Managing environmental pollution, and more specifically air, noise and water pollution in this setting does not go without its challenges. We are, however, making significant progress in this regard. Factors that are contributing positively to this state of affairs include the following, namely:

Firstly, the City has adopted a five year Integrated Development Plan (IDP). The IDP is a strategic framework for building a world class city based on five pillars, namely; the:

- Opportunity city;
- Safe city;
- Caring city;
- Inclusive city, and;
- Well-run city.

These five key focus areas inform all the City's plans, strategies and policies. Together these pillars inform the holistic view of development that this city government pursues, and in pursuing it, we will attempt in a dynamic manner to move this city forward. Ultimately, the IDP highlights and assists my city administration to transform Cape Town into a world class African city of the future, today.

Secondly, back in 2001, this City's Council adopted its Integrated Metropolitan Environmental Management Policy (IMEP), as a strategic environmental management plan for the City. The Policy sets out the strategic direction for ensuring sustainable development in the City. It included an environmental vision for the City to be achieved by the year 2020. A number of sectoral plans were highlighted in terms of this Policy, including, but not limited to air quality, noise, water, waste management, land-use, economic growth, and so forth.

Thirdly, the City adopted an Integrated Pollution Control Plan (IPCP), which focusses on identifying the roles and responsibilities of various line functions within the City as to ensure a coordinated approach to pollution control. Moreover, an Environmental Enforcement Task Team also aids in the coordination of environmental enforcement activities within the City's metropolitan area.

Over the years, the City of Cape Town has also inculcated various processes and initiatives with respect to specific topical areas, including, but not limited to Air Quality Control; Noise Pollution Control, and Water Pollution Control. In this regard, please note specific remarks with respect to each topical area below:

(i) **Air Quality Control**

Problem statement: The City of Cape Town, South Africa, has frequently experienced air pollution episode days of poor ambient air quality and visible air pollution in the form of brown haze smog. These events are most frequently experienced in the southern hemisphere winter months of May to September. The following solutions were implemented to address the problem:

Research based findings:

The City partnered with the University of Cape Town and other academic institutions to research the Brown Haze phenomenon so as to better understand the causes of the brown haze; characterise and apportion its sources and the climatological parameters that aid its formation.

The Brown Haze I and subsequent Brown Haze II studies were undertaken in 1996 and 2004 and Updated Air Quality Situational Assessment for Cape Town was also commissioned and released in 2004. These research reports provided the necessary scientific basis of an air quality management plan for Cape Town.

The main findings concluded that the strong low level temperature inversion condition that prevail in the winter months of May through to September play a key role in the pollution events through the mechanism of trapping pollution close to the earth's surface. The

pollution source apportionment also highlighted that transport related emissions were the biggest contributor, with diesel vehicles having the greatest impact on air quality.

City of Cape Town Air Quality Management Plan

In 2005, the City of Cape Town was the first South African city to adopt an Air Quality Management Plan. This Plan sets out the vision to be the "City with the cleanest air in Africa". Its mission statement states that the City seeks: "To reduce the health effects of poor air quality on the citizens of Cape Town, especially during Brown Haze events".

Eleven strategic objectives were adopted to address the critical areas of air quality management. Key strategies were identified to ensure the objectives were met and a management framework was developed and implemented. The above-mentioned eleven strategic objectives are, to:

1. Formulate an Air Quality Management System for the City of Cape Town;
2. Specify ambient air quality standards and targets for Cape Town;
Strategies by implementing National Ambient Air Quality standards, and identify appropriate short, medium and long-term targets for air quality in Cape Town;
3. Monitor priority pollutants which cause brown haze and affect human health;
4. Improve air quality in informal areas by selecting an informal area as a pilot project for AQ intervention;
5. Enforce current and future legislation for Air Quality Management Strategies. For instance, set up processes to implement the new Air Quality Act; introduce licensing fees for listed industries; review current permits; capacity building, and so forth;
6. Compile an emissions inventory database for the City of Cape Town by developing a comprehensive emission inventory; regularly updating the inventory; link the inventory to other data sources within and outside the City Council; validating the inventory with monitoring data, and linking the emission inventory to suitable air-shed dispersion modelling programme for health risk assessments;
7. Control vehicle emissions in the City through support and encouragement of the use of vehicles fitted with emission control equipment; the use of car pools, and so forth;
8. Consider air quality in land use and transport planning by developing guidelines for the modelling and prediction of air quality impacts, for use in transport and land use planning; the utilisation of cleaner tech and renewable energy sources for domestic, transport and industrial use-wind, solar, hydro power;
9. Determine the extent of any detrimental health effects of poor air quality on the population of the City by determining the relationship between the City's air quality and adverse health effects from exposure; research opportunities and priorities with respect to adverse health effects, and funding sources for these health priorities;
10. Establish a comprehensive education and communication strategy for air quality management by, for example, establishing a Public Awareness and Education Working Group to formulate terms of reference for the above strategies, and;
11. Periodically review the air pollution situation, report on progress and adjust and update strategies and objectives where needed.

The implementation of this Plan is bearing fruit, with Cape Town's peak ambient air quality levels stabilising and in some cases decreasing consistently over the last four years. These efforts have been recognised and commended by our country's National Air Quality Officer. Particular successes in the compliance and enforcement of vehicle emissions standards (obscuration standards) have seen failure rates drop from 17% in 2000 down to below 1% of vehicles tested currently failing the light obscuration tests. In addition, the City has made

major strides in improving public transport through the introduction and rollout of the "MyCiti" Bus Service along major transport corridors. This service continues to gain in popularity with users and reduce the number of vehicles entering the Cape Town CBD. Other sustainable transport initiatives that have been undertaken include amongst others driver behaviour change programmes for Metered Taxi Cab drivers and major fleet operators, including the City's own vehicle fleet operators.

(ii) Noise Pollution Control:

The legislative competence for noise pollution control rests with our Provincial Government authorities, whilst the implementation of the legislation and the control of noise pollution is a local government competency.

Noise Pollution Control Regulations were promulgated in 1998; these regulations were recently updated and replaced in 2013, further enhancing noise pollution control by providing tools to limit its occurrence. In this regard, the City employs three dedicated Noise Pollution Control Technicians, supported by a Mechanical Engineer; Law Enforcement Officers, and Environmental Health functionaries.

We have developed and promulgated nuisance bylaws, which have empowered law enforcement officers to confiscate sound reproduction equipment for non-compliant late night entertainment establishments and control noise breakout where nuisance noise is generated.

We have also recently adopted an integrated zoning scheme for the City, which further enhances land-use planning. Noise Pollution impact assessments are required for all major developments, allowing for the effective implementation of mitigation and control measures to prevent incompatible land-use activities.

(iii) Water Pollution Control:

Prevention of pollution of our inland, coastal and potable water sources is vital to our economy and the health and wellbeing of citizens and visitors alike to our City. Cape Town has an extremely safe potable water supply. It is one of the few cities where one can with confidence open a tap (faucet) and drink water directly from it without fear of contracting an infectious disease. Our quality assurance systems, comprising of state of the art treatment, safe distribution networks and a monitoring, sampling and laboratory analysis capability has been recognised and lauded locally and internationally. For instance, we have been awarded the coveted Blue Drop Platinum Award in May 2012 for the quality of the city's drinking water. Coupled with this this, is the fact that 2012 was the fourth year in succession that the City was recognised in the Blue Drop – Drinking Water Quality Assessment of all municipalities in South Africa. Likewise, the City was named the Best Performer in the Western Cape Province, while its Wemmershoek Water Treatment Plant was named the Best Large Water Treatment Plant in the country.

Our recreational water quality is also closely monitored through the implementation of Catchment Management Forums. Stormwater Management Bylaws have also been promulgated to empower Law Enforcement functionaries to act against illegal dumping and pollution of our stormwater and river systems. Coupled with the above-mentioned, it should be stressed that the City of Cape Town's application for Blue Flag status for six of its beaches for the 2014 season has been successful. This places the City at the top of the ranks, along with the Hibiscus Municipality, which also received six Blue Flags. This internationally

recognised symbol leaves visitors and tourists alike in no doubt as to the water quality and safety of the beaches in question and is ultimately a boost for our tourism industry.

In an attempt to counter water pollution by our industries, the City employs a specialist team of Industrial Effluent Control professionals who monitor discharges from Industry and who enforce our Industrial Effluent Control Bylaws. These experts perform a vital role in ensuring that the effluent discharges from industrial premises do not have a detrimental impact on the downstream waste water treatment plants, thus ultimately impacting on water quality and the management and control of water pollution in the City.

In conclusion, Mr Vanek, I am sure you will concur that the many programmes, policies and legislative developments my City has undertaken, demonstrates a commitment to the "Blue and Green Tomorrow" we all (should) strive for. The City of Cape Town is proud to commit itself to inculcating a blue and green tomorrow for its citizens and environment, and is honoured to make this contribution to the Blue-Green Booklet of the Better Cities for Better Life Conference 2014.

I wish you well in your endeavours.

Yours sincerely

PATRICIA DE LILLE
EXECUTIVE MAYOR