



DOC RRA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON 2022 / 2023

Welcome to the *23rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Dolphin Coast Residents and Ratepayers Association (DOC RRA)*.

We remain grateful to Simbithi for their continued support and providing this venue, yet again, for our AGM, as well as the ad hoc in-person meetings we have had during the last year. In addition we do continue to also hold meetings via Zoom, every two weeks.

I am proud to present this report on the activities of the Dolphin Coast Residents and Ratepayers Association (DOC RRA) for the year ending February 2023.

For a comprehensive window, and the DOC RRA activities, we present this report, as well as the presentation on the current year's activities that will be presented at the AGM held at the Pavilion Room in Simbithi.

For reading ease, I present this report under selected headings.

MPAC (Municipal Public Accounts Committee) and IDP (Integrated Development Plan)

- We represent you on the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) - to improve governance and consequence management.
- We represent you on the Integrated Development Plan Representative Committee (IDP) – to ensure our communities needs are met. At this forum, the medium- and longer-term needs, and commensurate budgets, are agreed for the next 5 years.
- Focus issues were the escalating electricity losses and lack of consequence management thereof, as well as the lack of investigating by the MPAC of unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

DOC RRA Alliances and Actions

- DOC RRA continues to collaborate with The I Lembe Business Chamber, Salt Rock Neighbourhood Watch, the Ballito Neighbourhood Watch, The Ballito Urban Improvement Precinct, the Dolphin Coast Conservancy, the KwaDukuza Organised Ratepayers Alliance (KORA), and certainly not least, our Ward Councillors on the Dolphin Coast.
- KORA (made up of Zinkwazi, Tinley Manor and Blythedale), was formed in order to create a collective voice on behalf of Residents and Ratepayer Associations in KwaDukuza, support each other, and to share relevant information and best practices, and collaborate to create 'one voice' representation with KDM.
- In addition, we joined the KZN RRA (KZN Resident & Ratepayers Association) group on a similar basis to KORA. This group has expanded substantially covering vast areas in KZN.
- This creates a forum for sharing lots of information, advice and supporting of one another – and thus resulting in a stronger and more influential residents and ratepayers' body.



Supporting the Community

- In addition, DOCRRA has a strong relationship with the responsible representative for the Auditor General (AG) for KDM, as well as with various divisions of the Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse (OUTA).
- DOCRRA, together with other KDM resident forums, joined forces and sent a collective letter to KDM highlighting community concerns and requesting a forum to discuss these. This influenced the introduction of quarterly formal meetings with KDM Executive.

KDM Executive Meetings

- DOCRRA was successful in setting up regular KDM Executive meetings where we determine the agenda raising concerns, issues, and questions regarding all major matters.
- This has proved to be quite successful in that KDM appreciate our approach and are much more open with us and willing to provide a lot more information, as well as listen and consider our input. Although we have come a long way, we still need to expand this even further.

Council and Ward meetings

- DOCRRA has a seat on wards 6, 22 and 30 and attend all the committee meetings.
- We also attend the monthly KZN Council meetings in Stanger.

KDM Financials.

- DOCRRA continues to receive, comment and question the various financial reports throughout the year.
- We evaluated, influenced, and provided feedback on the KDM Annual Report and performance.
- We meet with, and communicate with, KDM Financial management on a regular basis.
- We meet with, and communicate with, the Auditor General on a regular basis.
- We continually share our updates and feedback with the community via our website and the various social media.

KDM Performance for 2021/22

• KDM Financial Processes and Reports

- DOCRRA has distinguished itself as the leading civic organisation unpacking and analyzing the many financial processes and reports at KDM. This is probably the single largest portfolio at DOCRRA, and the DOCRRA influence is bearing fruit.
- Through our various communications, we continue to keep our members up to date on findings, issues and trends. Our AGM presentation provides more interesting, informative facts and trends.
- DOCRRA's key takeaways from the KDM Mid-Term Report include electricity losses, budget underspend, and unfilled vacancies.

- **KDM Annual Report comment**
 - DOCRRRA Comments on the draft Annual Report 2021-2022 was shared with our community under the headings 'The Good', 'The Bad' and 'The Ugly' and can be found on our website.

DOCRRRA Hazelmere Dam Site Visit

- On 17 August 2022, a delegation of five DOCRRRA executive committee members attended a site visit to the Hazelmere Dam.
- Representatives from the Department of Water and Sanitation for KZN, Umgeni Water and Groupfive (the project engineers) were all present, as well as the ward councillor for Mahlabathini and the head of site management, Mr. Ernest Ndlovu.
- The wall has been extended by 7 meters which results in the total capacity of the dam being doubled.

Proposed sale of parts of Townsend Park

- A notice of sale of part of the Townsend Park was publicized in the Courier, again. DOCRRRA took legal advice on the matter.
- A legal letter has been sent to KDM regarding the process being followed, and a request to meet with the KDM legal department. As yet, we are still waiting for their response regarding the process, and our opportunity to meet with them.
- In an addition, a petition was actioned objecting to the sale, and the list of the residents was presented to KDM.

DOCRRRA Membership

- DOCRRRA currently has about 20 estate/complex membership, and together with the individual memberships, DOCRRRA has about 4,500 members.

DOCRRRA Finances

The verified financials for the year ending February 2023 are available for consideration.

DOCRRRA Committee and Sub-committees

I wish to thank the DOCRRRA main committee, together with the additional co-opted members, for their input, guidance and time. We host meetings every two weeks and attend as many KDM meetings and sub-committee meetings. Our standing sub committees focus on communication, KDM finances (MPAC, Annual Financial Statements, Annual Budgets, mid-year report back, adjusted budgets and actual performance), DOCRRRA finances, Roads and Traffic, Electricity and streetlights, and various ad hoc committees for other pressing issues.

Our committee consists of the following individuals, Brian Botes (Vice-chair and KDM Finances), Flip Helberg (BNW), Deon Botha-Richards (DOCCRA Treasurer), Hans Broerse (SRNW), Don Forbes, Penny Fourie, Vanessa Honiball, Mary Kassam, Gaby Lyle, Trevor Greyling and Stephan Marais. We also owe a big debt of gratitude to Stephanie Walker, our Executive Officer, that keeps us all organised.

DOCRRRA Communication

Our presence on many social media platforms, our website, and traditional media such as local newspapers and radio station, grew exponentially over this last year.

We have posted several blogs a month on our website and various social media platforms where we covered topical issues and actions, shared information, as well as offered advice and guidance where we could. In addition, over the past year, we performed a number of radio interviews and submitted letters and/or articles which were published in the Courier.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our DOCRRRA communications committee.

DOCRRRA Benefits Card

Our DOCRRRA members have access to our DOCRRRA Benefits Card. Many participating local organisations offer discounts and special benefits to our participating members. You can find more information on our web site www.docrra.co.za/docrra-benefits-card/.

Dolphin Coast Outreach (DCO)

March 2023, the Dolphin Coast Outreach (DCO) program celebrated its third anniversary. We are currently distributing on average 350 liters, per week, of nutritious homemade soup, donated by various local contributors. These are distributed to charities and existing organisations in need. At this time 55,000 liters have been distributed representing roughly 160,000 meals.

We are extremely proud of our gracious supporters that continue making home cooked soup meals available weekly, support our various special requests for dry goods, clothes, toys, linen and bedding, stationery, and personal hygiene items. Soup is collected and distributed monthly, from Frasers in the South, to Thembeni in the North. We are always looking for more participants. For more information, please access our web site www.docrra.co.za/dolphin-coast-outreach/.

Conclusion

DOCRRRA achieved much during our 2022/23 financial year and we are proud of that. Yet, we are very aware that many obstacles and challenges still lie ahead.

DOCRRRA remains concerned about KDM performance management, consequence management, budgetary processes, underspending of budgets, and concerns around good governance. We will continue to working on these areas and continue putting pressure on and influence at whatever forum we can at both municipal and ward levels.

We have ‘a mountain still to climb’ and appreciate the support we get from our members, volunteers, partners and alliances, and specialist consultants.

I wish to thank especially our member Estates and individual members that make our activities possible. Without your continued support, we will not be able to keep our Municipality accountable and assist in maintaining and improving our lifestyle and property values on the Dolphin Coast. We remain painfully aware of the state of Municipalities around the country.



Thanks again to our committee members for their support, and our spouses and partners that share this commitment of time with us.

Last, but not least, we would like to express our sadness regarding the passing of Riaan Verster. He was a great loss to his family and friends and also very much to the Ballito community. He was a stalwart advocate in fighting for our civil rights. He is being missed.

**Deon Viljoen,
Chairman
DOCRRRA 2022/23**