



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

If you feed the people just with revolutionary slogans they will listen today, they will listen tomorrow, they will listen the day after tomorrow, but on the fourth day they will say, "To hell with you"

Former Russian premier Nikita Krushchev

Opinion & analysis

BIBLICAL INSPIRATION

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace



Acts 20:24

The Herald EDITORIAL COMMENT

Zuma must rein in Juju's racist rants

JULIUS Malema's latest outburst about white South Africans being criminals who should be treated as such is not surprising given the racial undertone of this year's election campaign.

Malema was reportedly pushing his campaign for the nationalisation of mines at an election rally in Kimberley on Sunday.

South African democracy gives Malema and the ANC Youth League every right to make the call for nationalisation and motivate for it. However, at the centre of Malema's rant was not an ideology that seeks to develop this country and equally distribute its wealth. His core message was that white people were criminals for stealing this land from black people and they should be treated as such.

Malema's statements are a clear indication of his belief that South Africa does not belong to all who live in it. In fact his statements could be considered more dangerous

with potential to incite violence than his singing of the controversial *Dubul'ibhunu* "Shoot the Boer" song.

Ironically Malema recited a pre-1994 speech by former president Nelson Mandela where he urged the ANC to fight for political emancipation when it attained power. However, he omitted that Mandela fought against white and black domination. Mandela repeatedly stressed how his fight was not against whites, but against white supremacy.

Even more concerning was that Malema's outburst was in the presence of President Jacob Zuma, who did not publicly rebuke him. As head of state, Zuma should have spoken out against such utterances. His silence shows the lack of leadership that fuels Malema's reckless behaviour.

Not only do such public outbursts sow more racial division in a country struggling to shake off the scourge of apartheid but it has potential to threaten political stability.



SIPHOSETHU BUKANI

Hero of the day

FROM neglected child to a medal winning karate champ this little boy shows that determination and discipline pays. Sipho Sethu is a role model for all. We applaud you!



JULIUS MALEMA

Hooligan of the day

JUST as we thought we'd heard it all from Julius, he goes on another racist rant about white people being criminals for taking land from blacks. When desperation sets in, trust Jugu to whip out the race card.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1909: The South Africa Act, under which the Cape, Transvaal, Natal and Free State provinces will unite to become the Union of South Africa on May 31, 1910, is signed, after being passed by Parliament in Cape Town.

1966: President of the National Union of South Africa Students (Nusas) Ian Robertson receives a banning order under the Suppression of Communism Act.

1997: Former PAC president and Robben Island detainee Clarence Makwetu (pictured) is expelled from the party for three years, for bringing the party in disrepute.



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Population heart of Bay is found on its periphery

THIS novel three-dimensional map of Nelson Mandela Bay (on the right) turns the conventional image of the metro area inside out. Focusing on where people live shifts the centre of gravity and produces a striking new perspective.

Established districts in and around central Port Elizabeth lose their significance compared with outlying areas such as New Brighton, Kwazakhele, Motherwell and Kwanobuhle.

The map was prepared for the 2011 State of the Cities Report.

The height of each column represents the population density of that district or neighbourhood – the taller the column, the higher the density. The footprint of each column is the geographical extent of the area – the bigger the footprint, the larger the area.

So the volume of each column reflects the total number of people living in the area.

The map provides a powerful representation of how the population of Nelson Mandela Bay is distributed across the metro. This is vital for strategic planning and resource allocation by public bodies.

It is also crucial for property developers and other private sector investors influenced by the location of consumers and workers.

The overwhelming concentration of people in townships and informal settlements in the outer north-west of the city is remarkable. Residential densities rise from the inner suburbs towards these outer areas.

Crammed together

Growing shack settlements function as gateways to the city for migrant groups. People are crammed together because of pressure on the supply of land and municipal restrictions on settlement expansion.

Meanwhile, the middle and high income suburbs have low densities and small populations. A single house with a garden on each erf is the norm, often with a pool.

There is little awareness here that each of the major townships houses more people than all the city's suburbs put together.

Township densities are typically more than 10 times higher than in the suburbs, with often well over 100 or even 200 persons per hectare. These densities stem from small overcrowded dwellings at ground level, rather than the tall buildings typical of

In our View



Ivan Turok Gerbrand Mans

dense Asian or Latin American cities.

The housing backlog means backyard shacks drive densities higher still. This limits the open space available for recreation, and adds to the strains on families and facilities.

Township residents often have far less personal space than the domestic animals kept in some affluent suburbs.

The imbalanced urban form of Nelson Mandela Bay is also peculiar by international norms. Most big cities have their highest densities in and around the central area.

This is where competition for space is most intense and land values peak, because this maximises access to opportunities. High rise apartment blocks dominate inner city living.

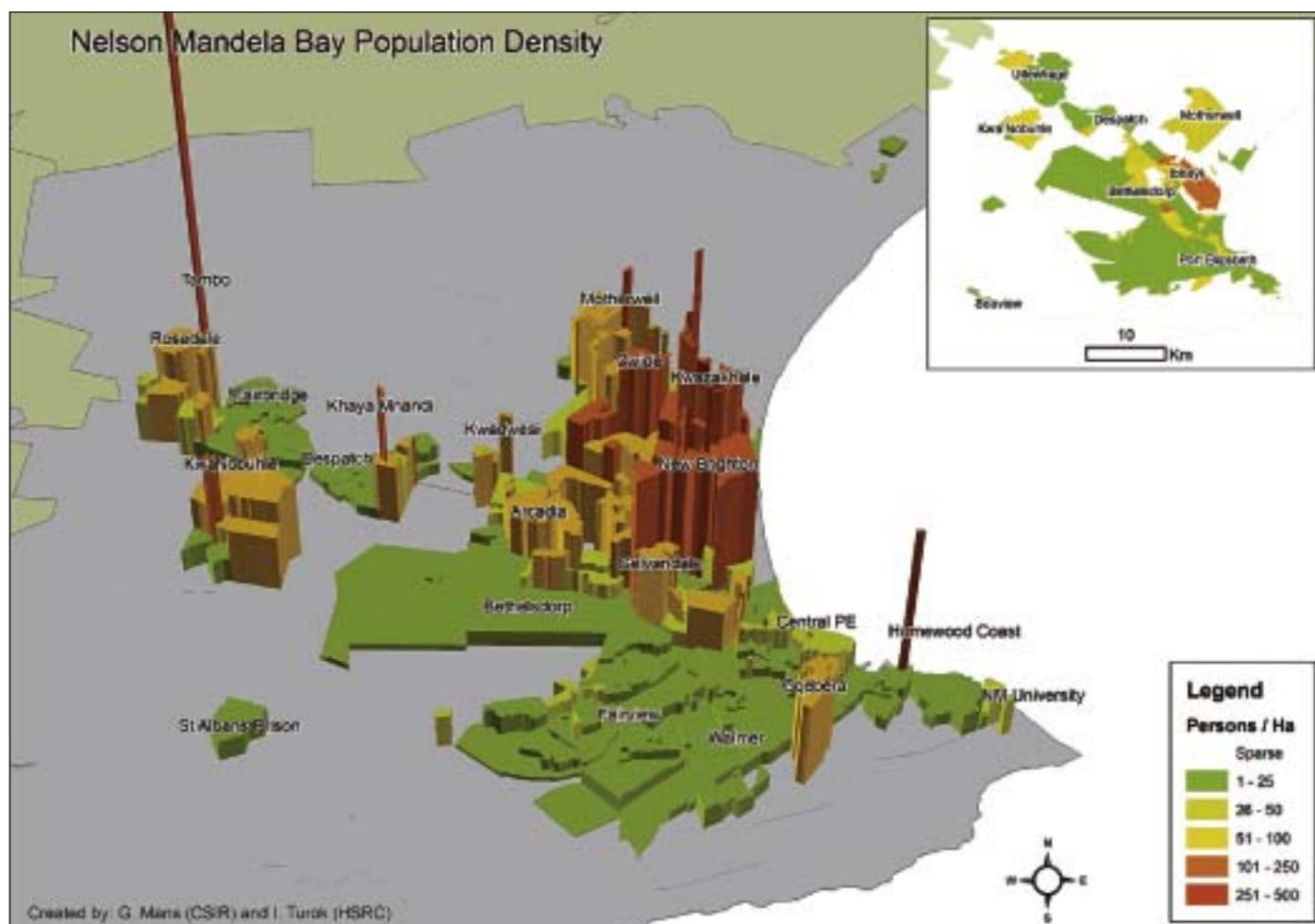
People normally trade off the amount of living space they want against proximity to workplaces and social amenities. Population densities and building heights usually fall with distance from the city centre, creating a cone-shaped urban structure.

This compact arrangement is highly functional. Average travel-to-work distances are modest and a comprehensive public transport system is viable.

In Nelson Mandela Bay it's the other way round. The high density areas are in the outer city.

Residents fortunate to have jobs have to commute long distances. This imposes big costs on themselves and their families, as well as on businesses and the environment because of the travel time and congestion created.

The quality of life is worsened by the extreme densities and lack of space for expansion. Existing public infrastructure is often overloaded, and schools and health centres are



overcrowded. Intense competition for housing land and other scarce resources exacerbates social tensions and crime. High densities expose people to heightened risks of fire damage and flooding.

It is also inefficient for workers to be concentrated in peripheral areas because of the effects of long distance commuting on punctuality, productivity and wage demands.

Linkages strengthened

Transport subsidies and other state resources should be invested in making the spatial form more coherent through carefully-targeted housing development, infilling and densification of the inner suburbs. Linkages between the townships and established urban areas should also be strengthened through mixed use property development in intermediate locations, supply chains and better transport connections.

The settlement structure of Nelson Mandela Bay can't be reshaped overnight of course. Efforts to restructure

cities are a bit like turning around a supertanker, except it's much slower and more difficult.

Without stronger interventions by local and provincial planners, and infrastructure providers, current patterns will continue to be entrenched well into the future, threatening the city's long-term viability.

Wider awareness of the current growth path could assist progress. Most citizens in the suburbs don't have a clue how people are distributed across the city, and what conditions are like in low income areas.

It would be easier to mobilise a concerted effort by all spheres of government to create a more functional city if they did.

The growing concentration of people in outlying areas is significant for four additional reasons:

- These are areas of rising consumer spending power that service sector businesses and house builders could benefit from taking more seriously.
- They are sizeable sources of labour supply that major employers

ought to consider. ● Housing policy urgently needs to support in situ upgrading and de-densification.

● These are also areas with rising capacity to pay municipal taxes. Although residents cannot pay as much as in more affluent areas, in aggregate they can pay enough to sustain better services.

Nelson Mandela Bay's major townships are at the heart of the "people's city". Many are experiencing greater economic vitality and should not be seen as bottomless pits into which state subsidies need to be poured forever.

Recognising them as areas of economic potential has potent implications for strategic decisions about the location of major public and private investment.

It is vital that civic leaders, urban planners, managers, investors and other decision makers recognise this reality.

Prof Ivan Turok is an economist/planner and deputy executive director at the HSRC. Gerbrand Mans is an urban geographer and GIS specialist at the CSIR.