

In the last few years there has been much to be positive about in the Outer West. This slow but steady change is easy to forget. Looking back there has been a lot of investment, growth and new employment in the region. Some examples of this change are shared below. HCRDA and its Members are optimistic about the future of the region and we hope that Sebenza readers are too.



The Hammarsdale Cato Ridge Development Association (HCRDA) is an NPC comprising 70 companies which came together in 2021 to support growth, employment and transformation and to make the outer west a better place to invest, work and live in. It aims to work with staff, the community, government partners and other stakeholders to address common challenges, to create a stable climate to retain and grow existing businesses, attract more companies to the area and create more jobs. In an effort to keep the community up-to-date with local developments Hammarsdale Cato Ridge Sebenza will be printed regularly and widely distributed. It will also be available online at www.hcrda.org/sebenza. Send stories or contributions to info@hcrda.org.

The many challenges of operating a business in the Outer West or South Africa generally must also be recognised. These are generally the Government's challenges to address, and often of the Government's own making. HCRDA remains willing to work with the Government to address them.

HCRDA is confident that with committed leadership these challenges could be quickly addressed and the lives of all South Africans significantly improved.

Local area: Top priorities



- Safety of staff**
 In terms of criminality, political instability, violence and unrest, South Africa ranks 144th out of 163 countries measured*. SAPS lack members, tools and vehicles to keep us safe
* The Institute of Economics and Peace's 2023 safety and security index
- Safe roads**
 While national roads locally are of good quality, provincial and municipal roads in the region are pothole riddled, unpainted and very worn, causing significant risk to all users and damage to vehicles
- Consistent power supply**
 Load shedding occurred on a record 332 days in 2023. The Government now projects load shedding to continue to 2030. This is naturally crippling to both businesses and residents
- Consistent water supply**
 Long water supply outages cause massive costs for businesses. Half of the city's treated drinking water is now classified as "non-revenue water" with most being leaks

Local area: Second priorities



- Development authorisations**
 Businesses wanting to establish legally often have long waiting periods while illegal developments are not addressed by Government, damaging investor confidence
- Re-establish fire station in Hammarsdale**
 The long time for service from Cato Ridge is a huge risk to local businesses and residents
- Improved waste collection**
 The litter, illegal dumping and inconsistent waste collection in the region create health and environmental hazards
- Better value for Municipal rates paid**
 eThekweni charges are generally the highest across all Metropolitan Municipalities in the country. The service levels received are often very poor. Some examples are included here

Secondary priorities in the general operating environment include:



- Better education outcomes**
 South Africa ranks very low in education rankings globally and only half grade one students will ever achieve a matric
- Better ports performance**
 South African ports are some of the worst performing in the world, adding cost to businesses and consumers
- Better rail performance**
 South African railways are some of the worst performing in the world, adding cost to businesses and consumers

These are not political or policy issues but ones that we believe all South Africans can agree are clearly holding us back.

There are many other political or policy issues that can be debated like tax; tariff; exchange and interest rates, economic, empowerment; foreign relations; healthcare, immigration, industrial development; labour and welfare policy. HCRDA has not developed a position on these matters.

Voting is important. Voting is your voice. Ensure you cast your vote. You can only bring about change if you cast your vote.

Vote on 29 May 2024

