



SPEECH BY MEC MOILOA AFTER MEETING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE SOUTH OF JOBURG

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media

The Gauteng Department of Human Settlements together with Local Government structures across the Province is forging ahead with its mandate of providing houses, serviced sites and housing opportunities within the context of human settlements, wherein we work with provincial departments, municipalities and national government to provide holistic services such as schools, clinics, recreation facilities. This is in line with our commitment with provincial government to produce new and futuristic cities where our people will enjoy better quality of life as we simultaneously address the need to create jobs and alleviate poverty. To this end our programmes are underway in all our corridors located within all the 5 regions. In this regard we are mainstreaming and up scaling our mega human settlements approach, that will give us a better yield of housing opportunities as we have seen the scale of our developments in Olievenhoutbosch, Nelmaphius, Riverside View, Clayville, and Fleurhof.

These are some of the projects that are being wholly funded and implemented by the Province and local government. We are currently engaging sister departments in the province that their work finds expression in the rolling out of mega projects to change the face of Gauteng as a global city region.

We have noted that there are restive communities that have been engaging in protest in the South of JHB, including parts of Soweto, who have made a call for the delivery of houses and land. This is a sequel to the protests that were held last year, where communities were expressing their impatience with the slow pace of delivering of houses, which led to the establishment of steering communities as a channel of communication between the Department and communities.

Steering Communities are community representatives who are a channel for continuous engagement and we are updating them on all of our plans. At the time a commitment was made that we will through our beneficiary system, allocate serviced stands to qualify and deserving beneficiaries. Those who are not registered for housing would be given an opportunity to register, those who qualify will be placed on a waiting list for houses or serviced stand allocation.

At the time of the protest as it was mid-year in the financial year, there was no money available to respond in full to the demand of our people.

We will develop plans that will be financed in the subsequent budgets to address their plight, we will simultaneously look for land, which will be used for future housing development and rapid land release program.

This task would be discharged in partnership with national government as represented by Housing Development Agency and all municipalities in the province. This has resulted in some plans being adopted and included in the budget allocation for the current financial year for planning activities.

The South of JHB has had delays in terms of development due to bulk sewer capacity challenges in Sedibeng, however the interventions to address the challenges raised is underway through Rand Water.

Ennerdale Ext 6 = Planning work is underway, bulk supply creating challenges. Good progress, the MEC will meet Rand Water as a matter of urgency to get an update and conduct a site visit of waste water treatment plant that is currently being upgraded. Update to be given to the community. Further delays were encountered by labourers downing tools and business forums. The projected yield for Ext 6 is 740.

Ennerdale/Finetown Ext 9 and expansion = Preliminary work has been done, the Department is awaiting the power of attorney from the City of Joburg to enable the town planning processes to be finalized. Interventions to be created for the planning process to be sped up. Projected yield Ext 9 and expansion 15000.

Eldorado Park = in dispute is the communities calling for the transfer of Government owned flats to beneficiaries. To date in Ext 6 and Ext 7, 266 out 298 units have been registered for transfer, the balance awaiting registration is 32. The Department together with the City will accelerate outstanding transfers as follows, sectional title schemes have to be formed where section 4 meetings will be called for beneficiaries to be educated to take ownership through establishment of body corporates for management by affected beneficiaries. The critical point of transfer involves audit and verification of beneficiaries who were leasing these properties from government to enable transfer to legitimate beneficiaries. The structural integrity of the affected units will be assessed and processed accordingly. This process will also be applied to address concerns in Westbury, Riverlea, Claremont, Bosmont, Sophiatown and Vredepark.

Kliptown = Issues in dispute led to a delay in the advertisement of the turnkey development in Ext 7. The City has since advertised the tender which has since closed, it is currently awaiting valuation through the City for awarding to the prospective bidder. Projected yield 1631 units. Allocation of complete and incomplete units in Ext 11, a quantity surveyor has since been appointed by HDA, who have advised on the cost and work to be undertaken. The Units will then be allocated to qualifying beneficiaries.

Southern Farms Mega project = I have instructed the relevant role players and urge the City of Joburg to fast track the approval and planning process to ensure that development of housing units and rapid release of serviced sites will begin in the next financial 2019/20. These projects will yield approximately 38 000 housing opportunities including serviced sites which will enable people to build through approved house plans over a multi-year period. The project will benefit other areas such as Diepkloof, Freedom Park, Eldorado Park and Naturena

Between the Department and the City of Joburg we are committed in ensuring that the poor and marginalized are housed accordingly.

Issued by the Gauteng Provincial Government. For more information contact the Department of Human Settlements – DDG: Keith Khoza on 082 823 9672.

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