



GAUTENG PROVINCE
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

ATT: ALL NEWS EDITORS

DATE: SUNDAY, 13 MAY 2018

Gauteng government calls for rapid land release

Gauteng Premier David Makhura has called for Rapid Land Release at a meeting with Eldorado Park, Freedom Park and surrounding communities that was held in Eldorado Park stadium yesterday.

The Premier who was accompanied by MEC for Human Settlements, Uhuru Moiloa; MEC for Economic Development, Lebogang Maile; MEC for Education, Panyaza Lesufi and MMC for Housing in the City of Joburg, Cllr, Mzobanzi Ntuli told these communities that the Gauteng Government has descended in Eldorado Park because people of the South of Joburg feel neglected by government especially when it comes to issues of housing and land.

Makhura said that the issues raised by these communities are very important and valid. He said government knows that they want access to land and rapid development, but also acknowledges that development is slow and understands the people who want land to build for themselves.

“Everywhere I go I hear people say give us land we will build for ourselves, others say we want to buy the land but the price of the prime land is expensive in Gauteng” said Makhura.

The Premier said he will be engaging all the Mayors in Gauteng to expedite the process of what he calls Rapid Land Release.

“We don’t want informalisation of development, when we bring serviced stands, people should have water, electricity, roads and sewer system in place. People who want to build for themselves should be able get all these facilities and that is why it is important to work with Mayors and the local municipality to bring these services” said the Premier.

He further urged the provincial and local government officials not play party politics when it comes to development. “We don’t want leaders who run away from the communities, leaders must be on the ground and engage the people in their areas, not on television and pretend all is well” said Makhura.

He noted that government cannot talk about land forever, the people of Gauteng must get their land, serviced stands and title deeds to fully restore their dignity because all they want is the means for livelihood so they can do things for themselves.

Also speaking at the Eldorado Stadium, MEC Moilola said the people of Joburg South have genuine grievances, they are demanding development and the duty of the Department is to respond to those demands.

Moilola pointed out that the communities had raised these grievances last May. "Today we are here to give feedback on how far we have come to obtaining the land earmarked for development."

"We are coming here to deliver the good news that we have acquired the land that will yield almost 60 000 housing units. This is a commitment that we are making to these communities. This is not thumb suck, the technocrats are at work with development plans most of which are complete. We are waiting for the City of Joburg to transfer through the power of attorney so that the department can allocate resources" said Moilola.

Moilola said the mega development in the South of Joburg will include Eldorado Park, Freedom Park, Ennerdale, Finetown, Lawley, Kliptown and Soweto.

"The reason we are fighting among ourselves, burning and looting is because we are not respecting, upholding and protecting the spirit of the constitution with regards to what role the community must play in their own development.

"If people participate in their development, there are responsibilities accompanying such participation, if you are a leader, you cannot be involved in burning, looting and destroying property. It is in that respect that this government is taking a stance to communicate on every step that government is taking on issues of development" said Moilola.

The MEC said 30% of the cost of project must empower the local community, meaning that local skilled people should be given a chance to participate in the community development.

"We are not interested in the structures called business forums, whose main objective is to extort money from rightfully appointed and registered companies. These people will demand 30% of the cost of the project without doing anything. I am warning you who are involved is this type of malpractice that is corruption to say the least" said MEC Moilola.

The MEC demanded that there should be credibility on the waiting list, people should know where their stand is; where their house will be built; what number are they on the list and that list should be published to avoid any chance of corrupting on the waiting list.

MMC Ntuli said that today government is speaking in one voice as the government of the people. He added that plans are in place to develop the Southern Farm which will be a mixed development which will include RDP walk ups, bonded houses, social housing and Finance Linked Individual Subsidy Programme housing (FLISP).

One of the community leaders, Fagmida Brown said people of the South of Joburg are frustrated, they don't want to be part of never ending meetings, all they want is to see development and not empty promises.

Issued by the Gauteng Provincial Government. For more information contact the Department of Human Settlements – DDG: Keith Khoza on 082 823 9672/071 609 0010.

For more information, photos and videos of the Department, please visit:

- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/GDHumanSettlement/>
- Twitter - https://twitter.com/GP_DHS
- Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/gp_dhs/
- YouTube- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrC0wrYtSSQj3hF3jgGqbCg>