



a world class African city

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MEDIA STATEMENT

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Joburg's Department of Human Settlements responds to SAMWU allegations

The City of Johannesburg's Department of Human Settlements notes the allegations levelled against them by the South African Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU).

Without dwelling much on these allegations, we want to place it on record for the benefit of the public, that the department was investigated by the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) on the Temporary Relocation Units (TRU) and was cleared.

The SIU issued an interim application against Johannesburg Social Housing Company (JOSHCO), City of Joburg, Rembu Construction CC, SKS Business Solutions, and Pro Power Group (Pty Ltd) for an order interdicting JOSHCO from making any further payments to the three contractors pending the finalization of the review application.

The interim application was set down for 29 June 2021. Subsequent to that, the SIU withdrew the applications, and therefore the matter was finalized. The accusations were dismissed or cleared, wherein the SIU withdrew the allegations in a letter dated 30 September 2021, Case No: GP/14/2020.

In the SIU's report, it was stated that there was nothing untoward with the processes that were undertaken regarding the TRUs and therefore the unions' allegations are baseless.

This simply means, if the proper processes were followed there is no irregularities or declaration by AGSA on these contracts being irregular.

The issue of Unaville was initiated with the goal of finalizing town planning processes, however, the area was invaded, and all the work done was compromised due to the illegal occupation of land.

The Moffat View matter was investigated by Group Forensic and Investigation Services and a quantity surveyor was appointed to quantify the work done at the time and it was proven that there was more work done on the ground than what was paid for.

The matter of the NINFU Allendale Development (Pty Ltd) land was dealt with by the City through a disciplinary process where Mr Patrick Phophi was subjected to a disciplinary process and was cleared because the City did not suffer any financial loss and the land was expropriated without compensation until it was reversed by the courts.

Furthermore, allegations that there are foreigners who were recently appointed in the Human Settlement Department are untrue. The officials that are being singled out by SAMWU were appointed in 2005 and 2007, respectively.

The union ought to have familiarised itself with matters prior to misleading the public and the media fraternity. Allegations of corruption are a serious issue and therefore, we do not take what SAMWU has said lying down.

We do however want to caution against misleading the public on matters that have nothing but false accusations and seek to tarnish the reputation of officials at both the Department of Human Settlements and JOSHCO.

If evidence of corruption is in the possession of union leaders, they are free to approach law enforcement agencies or any other channel through which evidence can be laid bare so that we deal with facts and not fiction.

ENDS

Issued by the City of Johannesburg

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