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Media Statement

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APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL MEMBERS TO THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG MUNICIPAL PLANNING TRIBUNAL

The City of Johannesburg's Department of Development Planning has taken a progressive step towards capacitating its Municipal Planning Tribunal (MPT) through the appointment of appropriately qualified and competent professionals to serve as independent additional external members of the City's Municipal Planning Tribunal.

The new members have been appointed in line with section section 36(1)(b) and Regulation 3(2) of the Spatial Planning Land Use Management Act, 2008 (SPLUMA) and section 14(1)(b) of the City of Johannesburg Municipal Planning By-law.

The City is happy to have finally made these appointments as the incoming members come with a wealth of experience in land use management, engineering, legal and compliance and the built environment which the MPT will make good use of in deciding applications for objections scheduled at the MPT.

Essentially, the MPT is a body that assesses and makes decisions on Land Use and Land Development Applications and considers objections from interested and affected members of the public within the jurisdiction of the City.

It is part of executing the mandate of SPLUMA for the City in relation to municipal planning. The MPT also ensures that land use development applications are appropriately adjudicated in a fair and transparent manner in line with the City's policies and frameworks.

In welcoming the appointment of the new MPT members; the Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Development Planning in the City of Johannesburg Cllr Eunice Mgcina said that the new officials will assist in ensuring that there was further speedy resolution of all matters needing adjudication in land use and municipal planning.

"I am also thrilled that it is the first time that we have appointed external members of the public to serve on the current MPT. The new members that have just been promulgated to serve are the first ones of their kind to do so and this is not only historic but a step in the right direction for development planning in the City," said MMC Mgcina.

She added that the new MPT members were qualified in the Built Environment, Engineering, and Legal fields. Their experience includes working within a municipal environment as a specialist or manager in the field of their qualification.

They will serve for a period of five years in the MPT and then thereafter, the City must call for new nominations.

A quorum for a MPT hearing comprises five members: namely the Chairperson, a Town Planner from the Land Use Development Management unit, and an External Member, One other Town Planner/Assistant Director/Manager from one of the Directorates within Land Use Management Unit and a Planning Committee Coordinator who serves as secretariat for the MPT.

Ends

Issued by the Office of the MMC Development Planning

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