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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **City of Johannesburg Responds to Contempt Application by CALS**

Johannesburg, [Date] - The City of Johannesburg notes with disappointment the contempt application brought by the Centre for Applied Legal Studies (CALS) regarding the implementation of the court order on the development of nine properties in Zondi, Soweto.

The City is of the view that the application is premature, given the collaborative efforts made by both parties to implement the court order. The City has been working closely with CALS to resolve the outstanding issues, and CALS is well aware of the challenges faced in this project.

In terms of the court order, the City was required to write off the rates and taxes of the nine property owners, install electricity, and connect bulk services. Since the court order, a committee comprising officials from the City, JPC, and CALS was established to drive the implementation of the order. The committee meets fortnightly to provide updates, and the representative of CALS is responsible for informing the nine property owners of the developments.

To date, the City has made significant progress in implementing the court order. The write-off report has been approved, and the City's debt collectors have been notified. Furthermore, the area is supplied with electricity by Eskom, and CALS was notified to advise their clients to individually apply to Eskom for electricity.

Regarding the installation of bulk services, a service provider was appointed, but unfortunately, the provider was chased away by the community and could not commence with the work. The contract was subsequently cancelled. The City has reached out to the Legislature for assistance in resolving the community issues with the project.

The City has proposed a meeting for Tuesday, 13 August 2024, at 11h00 with Centre for Applied Legal Studies, being the legal representatives of the owners of the vacant land, in order to discuss the application and the way forward.

A further meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 13 August 2024 at 17h00, led by the Chief Whip of Council, Ward Councillor, and the community at large to find a solution that will allow the project to proceed.

The City has however opposed the application by CALS, as the as the City is of the view that it is in compliance with the court order granted on the 10 December 2021, in that the rates has been written off, the owners of the vacant land has been informed via their legal representatives to apply directly to Eskom for the installation of electricity. The outstanding issue is the installation of bulk services, which the City is presently engaging with the community in order for them to allow Johannesburg Water to install the bulk water services.

The City will continue to work towards finding a solution that benefits all parties involved.

ENDS

Issued by the City of Joburg

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