



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

Member of the Mayoral Committee

## **Councillor Mlungisi Mabaso**

### **Human Settlements**

#### **Media Statement**

#### **For Immediate Release**

**05 September 2024**

#### **MMC Mabaso appeals for community cooperation in informal settlement upgrades**

The Member of the Mayoral Committee for Human Settlements in the City of Johannesburg, Cllr Mlungisi Mabaso, has urged communities in informal settlements to cooperate with the city's efforts to formalise these areas, highlighting the benefits for residents.

Cllr Mabaso made this appeal during a visit on Wednesday, 4 September, to Roodepoort Farm, where he assessed progress on the Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme (UISP).

The formalisation aims to reduce Johannesburg's informal settlement backlog and provide residents with access to basic services in properties they can own.

"We call on residents in informal settlements due for upgrades to work with the city to decongest urban spaces. Our programme aims to bring essential services such as water, electricity, and sanitation to those living in these areas," said Mabaso.

To implement the upgrades, residents need to be relocated to planned and serviced sites. However, Mabaso acknowledged misinformation and resistance from some residents about the relocation process, assuring them that the city's intent is to restore their dignity by offering them properties with security of tenure.

"We therefore wish to assure residents that the city wants to restore their dignity by providing them with properties that they own which they can use as security of tenure," Mabaso said.

The UISP aligns with the government's directive to de-densify congested settlements. The Roodepoort Farm project will produce around 1,270 stand sites, prioritising Kapok, Mazibuko, and Precast informal settlements.

"The goal of UISP is to formalise informal settlements, establish townships, and provide permanent services and security of tenure. However, some informal settlements are located on unsuitable land, necessitating the identification of alternative sites for relocation," Mabaso explained.



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

Member of the Mayoral Committee

**Councillor Mlungisi Mabaso**

**Human Settlements**

He noted that while stand allocations have begun, progress has been hampered by litigation and resistance from some residents. Mabaso emphasised that once legal challenges are resolved, the city will be able to set clear timelines for relocation.

“We are also engaging with private landowners adjacent to the development to acquire additional space, as demand far exceeds the available land,” Mabaso added.

Cllr Mabaso added that allocation of the stands has started but that has been slow because of the litigation and resistance from some of the residents who will be relocated into the development

“Once we have concluded the engagements and dealt with those litigations, it will be easier for us to pronounce the timeframes because there will be no hindrances in the process of relocation,” MMC Mabaso concluded.

**Ends**

For more information, contact:

Sibonelo Mtshali

Media Liaison Specialist

Office of the MMC Human Settlements

084 404 223