



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

Member of the Mayoral Committee

Councillor Mlungisi Mabaso

Human Settlements

Media Statement

For Immediate Release

23 September 2024

MMC Mabaso vows to repair vandalised Marlboro TRUs and begin allocations

The Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Human Settlements in the City of Johannesburg, Councillor Mlungisi Mabaso, has assured the Marlboro and Alexandra communities that the Temporary Relocation Units (TRUs), which were invaded and vandalised, will be repaired and allocated to the rightful beneficiaries.

After obtaining an interdict to prevent further invasions, the City successfully removed illegal occupants from the Marlboro TRUs and began assessments of the damage. The Marlboro TRUs have experienced more issues compared to those at Madala Hostel.

On Friday, 20 September 2024, Cllr Mabaso visited the sites to personally assess the progress made and the damage caused by the illegal occupants.

“Unfortunately, at this site and the other one, further invasions occurred, leading to the tragic loss of one of our own councillors, which was deeply unfortunate. The City has apologised to the family of the councillor and expressed its condolences. Today, we are here to assess the damage and repair what has been broken, as we need to allocate these units in the end.

“We understand the community’s frustration. This site has been under construction for almost four years. At the Madala Hostel site, where no such challenges were faced, the project is complete.

“The certificates are ready, and we are prepared to begin the allocation process. We will be addressing the community there in preparation for the allocation and subsequent demolition of the hostel. But here, at these two sites, we have encountered serious challenges that have significantly hindered the completion of the projects,” said Cllr Mabaso.

The Johannesburg Social Housing Company (JOSHCO) is the implementing agent for the TRUs. Once the project is completed, JOSHCO will hand it over to the City’s Human Settlements Department for allocation.



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“We need to move quickly so we can finalise the project and proceed with allocations. We cannot keep injecting funds into the same project repeatedly, as it places a burden on our budget.

“Next, we will visit Madala Hostel to engage with community leaders as we prepare for allocations. Even with this project, we will need to hold a public meeting to alleviate frustrations and outline our plan for addressing the challenges we’ve encountered,” said Cllr Mabaso.

Nokwazi Mtshali, CEO of JOSHCO, echoed the sentiment that illegal occupation had caused delays. “We understand the community’s frustration; the project has been ongoing for some time. As JOSHCO, we are committed to completing the project so that we can hand it over to Human Settlements for occupation.”

Kholiwe Mayiza, the Project Manager, was also on-site to brief MMC Mabaso on the progress made. “Only last Wednesday (11 September) were we able to move people off-site. The next day, a security assessment was conducted. We only managed to return to the site on Friday, 13 September.

“We had to inspect each unit to quantify the damage so that a report could be produced. We expect the report this afternoon. In terms of the damage, it is minimal — geysers are missing, partitions have been broken, and doors are damaged. We have now quantified all the damage,” said Mayiza.

Ends

For more information, contact:

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