



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

Member of the Mayoral Committee
Councillor Anthea Natasha Leitch
Human Settlements

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MMC Leitch kicks off launch of Ekhaya Gardens social housing project in Region C

On the first of two days to launch Johannesburg's newest social housing project, the joyous occasion was marked by a full turnout from the public and beneficiaries in Princess Plots, Roodepoort.

The MMC for Human Settlements, Cllr Anthea Leitch, was joined by the acting CEO of the Johannesburg Social Housing Company, Thedi Moropa, Human Settlements Executive Director Patrick Phophi, Ward 71 councillor Rene Benjamin, and other distinguished guests from national and provincial government as well as the Social Housing Regulatory Authority ahead of the final day of the Ekhaya Gardens launch, which takes place on Wednesday.

This social housing development boasts 333 rental units and is situated in a prime location affording residents convenience due to its proximity to many amenities near Roodepoort CBD.

In her keynote address, the MMC extended her heartfelt gratitude to everyone present and advised that while the executive mayor, Cllr Kabelo Gwamanda, and the Honourable Minister Mmamaloko Kubayi were unable to attend the stakeholder engagement due to prior commitments, they would be in attendance on Wednesday for the unveiling of the plaque and handover of keys to a group of qualifying beneficiaries.

The application process for Ekhaya Gardens was facilitated via an online QR Code system and the total number of registrations received was a staggering 27,555. The MMC noted that this high number was tragic and meant that many more Ekhaya Gardens were needed throughout the city.

She further noted that the reality facing those who work in government housing is that social housing represents the quickest and most affordable rental stock to market in places that integrate people into work, play and living amenities.

“It is becoming increasingly difficult to acquire land and build BNG houses, which are given away for free. Joshco stock, by contrast, is intended to remain for rental forever and, once people progress upwardly on the social ladder, those units are available to the next household to benefit from.”

Joshco as an entity was encouraged to keep building projects such as these.

Leitch shared a story with stakeholders and community members encouraging those responsible for service delivery to show the same care and dedication for their city work as they would if they were doing it for themselves or their own family.

“In the end, everything we do for others should also be for ourselves, for our own pride and to trust that if we are doing well for others, they will do well for us someday.

“I’ve been to a handful of city projects where I’ve honestly been able to say, ‘Yes, sure, I could live here.’ Ekhaya Gardens is one of those places for me. So congratulations on that, and you should feel proud as a team.”

The MMC extended her gratitude to all involved in making Ekhaya Gardens a reality, though the project had suffered numerous delays.

Ekhaya Gardens exemplifies the city’s commitment to forging a brighter future for its residents, ensuring that each person enjoys access to secure, cozy and reasonably priced rental housing.

ENDS

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