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Media Statement

For Immediate Release

Date: 13 December 2024

MMC of Human Settlements affirms no undocumented immigrants allocated housing at Fleurhof Development

The MMC of Human Settlements in the City of Johannesburg, Cllr Mlungisi Mabaso, has today assured residents that no undocumented immigrants have been allocated housing in the Fleurhof development.

This announcement follows the recent evacuation of residents from the Moth Building, deemed unsafe for habitation. On Wednesday, 11 December 2024, MMC Mabaso was joined by Executive Mayor Cllr Dada Morero and MMC of Public Safety, Cllr Mgcini Tshwaku during the emergency evacuation of 156 households from the Moth Building in Johannesburg's inner city.

This action was necessary due to the dangerous living conditions exacerbated by illegal electrical connections and inadequate waste management, posing significant health and safety risks. Prior to the evacuation, the City conducted a thorough audit of residents living in the Moth Building.

Following the evacuation, residents were relocated to the Fleurhof development near Soweto, with the City covering all travel and relocation costs. The Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department (JMPD) worked diligently to ensure a safe and orderly transfer of residents and their belongings.

During the evacuation, only ten (10) individuals were identified as undocumented and were taken by Home Affairs.

Importantly, Home Affairs is an internal part of our operations to help us to identify foreign nationals.

Upon their arrival at Fleurhof, the residents were greeted by City officials who were prepared to facilitate their immediate allocation to available units. A pre-established list of names ensured an organised and efficient allocation process.

MMC Mabaso emphasised the clarity of the city's policies regarding housing allocation: "No undocumented immigrant was allocated in Fleurhof. We understand there may be frustrations among residents in Soweto and surrounding areas regarding waiting times for housing. However, it is crucial to note that government policy prohibits the allocation of housing to undocumented persons."

He continued, “This development is not limited to the residents of a specific community. The evacuation from the Moth Building was essential for the safety of its occupants, as confirmed by a court ruling on the matter.

Mabaso reassured the public, stating, “All housing projects initiated by the City of Johannesburg are aimed at benefiting the residents of the city as a whole, not just those in the immediate vicinity of a development.”

The MMC’s statements reaffirm the City’s commitment to the safety and wellbeing of its residents and the integrity of its housing allocation processes.

Ends

Issued by the City of Johannesburg

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