



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

Member of the Mayoral Committee

Councillor Mlungisi Mabaso

Human Settlements

Media Statement

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Human Settlements MMC empowers residents with housing knowledge

The MMC for Human Settlements in the City of Johannesburg, Cllr Mlungisi Mabaso, has called on community leaders to play an active role in ensuring residents are well-informed about government processes.

On Tuesday, 25 February 2025, MMC Mabaso held a public engagement session with residents at the Orlando East Communal Hall in Soweto. Addressing the gathering, he emphasised the importance of equipping residents with knowledge to prevent them from falling victim to criminals who exploit gaps in information to sell government services that are meant to be free.

“When we say we want houses, we should understand how the application process works. It is painful to see someone who applied for a house in 1996 but still does not know whether their application was successful or if they will ever receive a house. A responsible leader will ensure that if you hold a C-Form, you know whether you are eligible for a house or not,” said Cllr Mabaso.

He stressed the need for government to clearly explain allocation processes to communities.

“The community you serve must understand how government processes work so they can hold you accountable for the promises you make, based on facts they know and understand. It is easier for residents to engage with you as a leader if they have a clear understanding of how government systems operate,” he added.

The event, held at a packed venue, provided residents with an opportunity to raise their housing concerns directly with the MMC and receive immediate responses from officials of the Department of Human Settlements who were present. Hundreds of residents were also able to check their status on the government’s housing waiting list and determine whether they qualify for a fully subsidised home (RDP).

In addition to engaging with government officials, residents interacted with private developers such as ValuMax and Calgro M3, as well as representatives from the Johannesburg Social

Housing Company, the City's Group Forensic Investigations Unit, and the Gauteng Department of Human Settlements.

MMC Mabaso has prioritised these public engagement sessions as a means of empowering communities and creating a platform to listen to residents' concerns about the city's human settlements programme. One of the key issues being addressed is the status of individuals who hold C-Forms. These forms were issued to applicants during the initial rollout of the RDP housing programme between 1996 and 1999, when municipalities lacked computer systems to capture applicant data.

In 2008, the Gauteng government launched the Ziveze campaign to address the issue of C-Form holders who were not captured on the national housing database. The campaign aimed to ensure that all applicants were recorded on the government's demand database, which is used to plan housing developments based on the need reflected in the system.

It is important to note that a C-Form is not proof of guaranteed housing but rather a request for government assistance. Eligibility for a house is confirmed through a subsidy approval, which residents can verify at the City's Human Settlements offices.

These engagements underscore the City's commitment to transparency, accountability, and empowering residents with the knowledge they need to navigate government processes effectively.

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