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Media Release

For Immediate Release

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City of Johannesburg evacuates residents from dilapidated Fleurhof hostel

The Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Cllr Dada Morero together with the Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Human Settlements, Cllr Mlungisi Mabaso today oversaw the relocation of residents who have been living in the dilapidated Fleurhof hostel to safe housing units.

A total of 130 families who had been living in the hostel, as well as in illegal structures erected within the facility, were evacuated and moved to Fleurhof housing units where they will now be accommodated.

Following the relocation of all residents, the hostel will be demolished to allow for the continuation of the Fleurhof Mega Housing Project.

“We did profile the entire area; we have about 130 families who are South African citizens. We have also found undocumented person in the hostel and Home Affairs; Johannesburg Metro Police Department (JMPD) and the South African Police Services (SAPS) have been very helpful in removing them and processing them accordingly.

“Fleurhof is one of the mega-projects of the City of Johannesburg and we want to ensure that this mega project is fully delivered and beneficiaries in our waiting list should be able to find accommodation. Some of the people we are evacuating qualify for RDPs and will get the necessary support.

“Those who fall within the rental stock will be assisted. We have a responsibility to rejuvenate the City of Johannesburg, protect it and ensure that the city grows and becomes a city that we want to see,” said Cllr Morero.

MMC Mabaso explained that the relocation forms part of plans to expand the Fleurhof development which includes social housing, fully subsidised and low-cost housing opportunities.

“There is a council resolution which guides us on how we allocate beneficiaries here. As we are demolishing here, we will then begin the process of initiating a proper development so that we deal with our housing backlog. It was imperative for us to deal with the hinderances so that the developer can continue with the development of houses.

“We have taken time to engage with the residents about the relocation and demolition, that is why there is no resistance. They are aware that we will be moving them. After we engaged with our residents, there are those that started selling their spaces. We are going to use the data we have so that we prevent any criminality. We are going to be focusing on those that we have already profiled. We will not deal with someone who has arrived just yesterday for the purpose of getting allocated into the houses,” said MMC Mabaso.

During the evacuation, a total of nine undocumented persons were taken by the Department of Home Affairs by midday.

MMC Mabaso further stated that the evacuation operation was a breakthrough, as significant illegal activities were taking place inside the hostel.

“This facility was used by illegal miners and were aware that we are coming but there are four that have been taken JMPD. What we appreciate from law enforcement is that they have been having operations here in an attempt to protect the lives of those that are residing within this facility,” Mabaso said.

The Fleurhof Mega Housing Project is a massive, mixed-income residential development located southwest of Johannesburg in Gauteng, South Africa. The project is a public-private partnership between the City of Johannesburg and Calgro M3 aimed at creating an integrated and sustainable community.

Originally planned to deliver 6,000 units, the project has since been expanded and is expected to yield over 16,800 housing units upon completion.

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