



## **CITY OF JOHANNESBURG**

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### **A City of Johannesburg Press Statement by the MMC for Development Planning, Cllr Lawrence Khoza. 15 November 2020**

**Release: Immediate**

#### **Clamping down on Illegal Buildings.**

The MMC for Development Planning in the City of Johannesburg Cllr Lawrence Khoza, accompanied by the Executive director Amolemo Mothoagae, the Chief Operations Officer of the City, Floyd Brink, and Acting Chief of the JMPD, Angie Mokasi today joined forces with the JMPD in Region F1 to visit two properties, one in Kensington and the other in Sandringham. This was an urgent attempt to halt all construction work on these sites following the flaunting of the by-laws put in place by the City of Johannesburg.

Following the inspection on both properties, it was observed that the building structures contravened building regulations, they were non-compliant, they also deliberately deviated from the original approved plans and they consistently ignored the departmental notices issued to them in this regard and continued with the construction work.

Upon inspection, the MMC observed that the additional structures have indeed been built without following the Legal Processes and without approved building plans. On Monday, November 16, the department will be approaching the court on an urgent basis to source demolition orders for the aforementioned properties. The MMC, the Department of Development Planning together with the JMPD then decided to issue notices and confiscate building materials and equipment to stop the construction work pending the finalization of demolition orders.

Lawlessness will not be tolerated in the City of Johannesburg. Illegal buildings have become a major problem in the City of Johannesburg. The Department of Development Planning, the JMPD, Group Legal and other key City Departments are determined to put a stop to illegal buildings in the City. Those who abuse the system will feel the might of the City and will be held to account. The City of Johannesburg welcomes development in the City, but these should not infringe on our by-laws and policy decisions.

The operation this weekend is not a once-off! Operations will be conducted on a regular basis and we will continue to visit various regions on site inspections and take the necessary steps to ensure that such cases are dealt with in the city of Johannesburg.

“The Department of Development Planning takes such matters very seriously, hence there will be no tolerance for Property owners who refuse to follow necessary protocol. The City will do what is necessary to send a very strong message regarding the illegal erection of structures. There will be serious consequences for contravening building Regulations.” said MMC Khoza.

MMC Khoza furthermore urged community members to report illegal buildings as promptly as they see them.

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