



Media Statement

To: All Media Houses

Att: All Editors

For immediate release

Date: 18th November 2010

Embargo: None

MOGALE CITY HUMAN SETTLEMENT POLICY FAVOURS ALL

The municipality notes your reports about the Chief Mogale Housing Development and is baffled that it has not been approached for comment when important projects like these are questioned.

There could be reasons that this occurred and we hope that none of the actions of this unfair reporting practice are meant to ferment mayhem in our city. If approaches were made to the municipality for comment on the matter, may we please be sent the evidence to that effect. Failure to do so will leave us with no choice but to conclude that this is a sponsored adversarial and mischievous position against the municipality by your station or individuals working for it.

The municipality confirms that there are 25 families who have registered on the housing demand management database who are due to receive houses with the rest of our communities. They still need to be assessed for government subsidies and if approved, will be allocated houses at this development. Unfortunately for the source (s) of the media, none of these white communities are from the community that is illegally occupying Coronation Park. The fact is that they are from the poor white communities of West Krugersdorp.

Again for the record, the illegal occupants of Coronation Park are not and refuse to register for any government programmes including the human settlement demand management database. The claims being made that the municipality, and the GP Department of Local Government and Housing by extension (i.e. because the housing competency is theirs) are far-fetched. We would be happy to be reminded of our 'own official position' where we make this housing offer to the Coronation Park community.

The municipality has been seized with the Coronation Park matter for some time now, just as it has been seized with the development programmes and challenges that affect other communities in the city. The matter has never been ignored and was never dealt with when the media reported about it. The opposite is true, in that the media reported this issue when the municipality was taking action against illegal occupation of a recreational park. It is perhaps some ugly coincidence or even accidental that the illegal occupants are white because most of us probably do not associate poverty and homelessness with white people. What we know as an institution is that even if the recreational park was invaded by black folks, the same steps would have been taken. The matter is before the courts and will be concluded appropriately when the courts have decided what needs to happen.

We will continue to house all deserving communities of our city without prejudice because our country belongs to all who live in it, black and white. We will not prioritise one community against another on the basis of race, religion or any other criterion but based on needs.

We need to register our discomfort and displeasure with the position the media takes on this matter without getting our side of the story.

/End of Statement

**Issued by Nkosana Zali: Spokesperson of the Mogale City Local Municipality
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