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MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA

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GAUTENG PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON CoGTA AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INTERVENES IN THE JOBURG SOUTH PUBLIC PROTESTS

The Gauteng Provincial Legislature's Portfolio Committee on COGTA and Human Settlements Chaired by Honourable Mohatla Tseki has taken a decision to intervene in the process of resolving service delivery protest actions that erupted in the southern parts of Johannesburg from Monday, 8 May 2017.

As part of the Committee's intervention, Chairperson Tseki met with Community Leaders from the affected areas at the Gauteng Provincial Legislature (GPL) on Tuesday 9 May 2017 to establish facts around the cause of the protest actions and find amicable solutions in resolving concerns raised by residents. Amongst the key concerns raised by the community leaders were a lack of housing, jobs and development within their communities.

The Portfolio Committee has initiated this process that is currently unfolding with the three spheres of government (National, Provincial and Local Government); and community leaders within the areas affected to speedily resolve the issue.

The following issues were discussed in the meeting:

1. Assessment of the land and flats in Eldos for human settlements
2. The existing housing allocation list for Eldos being sampled by the Department to verify those that have qualified and have been approved. The intervention will include all other affected areas.

1

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3. The unauthorised companies that are unlawfully extorting money from residents for housing registration.
4. The intervention by the Department of Economic Development to assess local community benefiting 30% of the contracts as well as address equity in all structures.
5. Improvement of IDPs performance since 1994 thus far; reducing crime, unemployment and lack of skills within these communities.
6. Consultation process for available land for development, and the issue of land in Eldos belonging to JHB Propcom.

The meeting resolved on the following measures a start of ending the violent protest actions and resolving concerns raised by residents:

- The establishment of a Steering Committee
- The assessment of community needs in all affected areas
- Exploring the possibilities of the development of flats in the areas with in consultation with the MEC and MMC for Human Settlements
- The prioritisation of addressing residents on the housing registrations statistics and the lack of street lights

Furthermore, it was resolved that other GPL Portfolio Committees as well as Departments would all need to work together in resolving these issues as well as expose alleged corruption in this regard. The Steering Committee will be provided with all required resources and support nationally, provincially as well as locally.

Chairperson Tseki and Mayor Herman Mashaba held a meeting on Wednesday 10th May at COJ Municipality to provide feedback on the outcome of the meeting and present resolutions to members of the community. Mayor Mashaba informed stakeholders on the meeting yesterday (Thursday 11th May) with the Minister of Human Settlements, MEC for CoGTA and Human Settlements and Mayors of the City of Johannesburg and Tshwane.

This afternoon (Friday 12th May) the Portfolio Committee and Department are addressing community leaders in all affected areas, to provide a progress update in preparation for the public meeting scheduled for Sunday at the University of Johannesburg Soweto Campus, where the MEC and Minister will address the public.

Chairperson Tseki would like to appeal to community members to restrain from violent activities and allow the processes initiated by the Committee to unfold and their concerns to be addressed amicably. Gauteng citizens are further reminded to petition to the Legislature on service challenges, without resorting to violent protests that further dilapidate the existing infrastructure in their communities.

ISSUED BY CHAIRPERSON OF THE CoGTA & HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE MOHATLA PHUTAS TSEKI.

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