



PRESS RELEASE

NO EMBARGO

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District Six: Efforts of Reclamation, Endeavours towards Restitution

An Inter- Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Land Reform and Agriculture Oversight Visit.

Since the late 1960s, District Six and several other places across the country were re-zoned and officially declared white areas in accordance with the apartheid state's Group Areas Act. District Six, which was the home of a multi-ethnic, multi-racial, multi-cultural, and multi-religious community for generations, was, because of apartheid's loathsome inhumane policies, transformed into an empty quarter for decades.

Many of us, who lived there and think back about those agonizing years, recall how we – as closely-knit families - were forced out of our homes. All of us remember how we were dislodged, uprooted, and carted away to distant places far from the city centre. And all of us cannot forget the extent to which these despicable Acts deeply had harmed and continues to hurt us emotionally.

While we continue to grapple mentally with the painful past, we express our joy that we – as families – can reclaim that which we had lost; and in this regard, many of us joined groups such as the District Six Beneficiaries and Redevelopment Trust that were willing to assist us in bringing about the required restitution.

We are aware that as these groups worked to achieve this goal, they encountered many hurdles along the way. Though there were successes, there were other unforeseen issues that came on board that caused delays in the process of restitution. Now considering these developments, Al Jama-ah Party under Honourable Ganief Hendricks' leadership intervened by raising the matter with the His Excellency Deputy President David Mabuza.

The Party encouraged the Honourable Deputy President, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the Inter- Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Land Reform and Agriculture, to undertake an oversight visit to District Six. In response to this urgent quest, the reply was positive. This may be viewed as government's commitment to redress the past's injustices by ensuring that the land be restored to its rightful owners.

The Honourable Deputy President thus committed himself in Parliament that the IMC on





Land Reform and Agriculture to undertake an oversight visit; one that intends to ensure that all bureaucratic delays including occupational certificates related to District Six, will be resolved.

It has been confirmed that on the 22nd of March 2022, the Honourable Deputy President and members of his committee will pursue this important visit; on that day, the Deputy President will meet with Honourable Ganief Hendricks and his team as well as groups that represent the beneficiaries of District Six.

A commemorative booklet District Six Parliamentary Oversight Visit, ISBN number 978-0-620-99545-3 has been written by Professor Haron with inputs from Hon Hendricks who was born in District Six and the first copy will be ceremoniously handed to the Deputy President and a copy for him to hand to the President who have been consulted with regards to this oversight visit.

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