



# Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement Western Cape Provincial Parliament IPalamente yePhondo IeNtshona Koloni

Ref Number: 11/4/6

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The Standing Committee on Human Settlements having undertaken an oversight visit to Flamingo Heights (Flamingo Vlei), on 25 August 2015, reports as follows:

## **Delegation**

The Committee consisted of the following members:

Dijana, TM (ANC) (Alternate member)  
Hinana, N (DA)  
Joseph, BD (EFF)  
Magaxa, KE (ANC)  
Maseko, LM (DA) (Chairperson)

## **Apology**

Schäfer, BA (DA)

The following staff attended the oversight visit:

Jones, S (Committee Co-ordinator)  
Naidoo, W (Senior Administrative Officer: Security and Facilities)  
Barends, A (Administrative Officer/Driver: Security and Facilities)

## **1. Introduction**

The Standing Committee on Human Settlements embarked on an oversight visit to Flamingo Heights in Flamingo Vlei to observe the re-blocking/re-configuration of what was previously known as Flamingo Crescent.

This report highlights the findings and recommendations stemming from the oversight visit.

## **2. Overview of the visit**

The oversight visit commenced with a Committee meeting held at 14:00 in Committee Room 2 on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Legislature Building of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. Representatives of the Department of Human Settlements and the City of Cape Town were in attendance. The City of Cape Town (hereinafter "the City") briefed the Committee on the re-blocking and *in situ* upgrading of Flamingo Crescent.

After the meeting the Committee travelled to Flamingo Heights where the Department and the City accompanied the Committee on a walk-about.

### **3. Background on the Flamingo Heights re-blocked programme**

In 2005 law enforcement units transported homeless people from various areas within the Central Business District (CBD) to the Flamingo Crescent informal settlement. The influx of homeless people to the area resulted in social problems due to non-cohesion as a community and overcrowding. At the time Flamingo Crescent consisted of 104 structures which housed a total of 405 residents. The informal settlement had 14 chemical toilets, two taps and had no electricity.

Due to the limited availability of greenfield land, the City had to utilise more innovative methods to upgrade informal settlements and thereby improve the living conditions of people living in informal settlements. Flamingo Crescent was identified as the most ideal settlement for re-blocking as it did not require the relocation of the residents.

During the meeting the City briefed the Committee on the conceptualisation of the re-blocking of the Flamingo Crescent project. They elaborated on the City's collaborative partnerships with Non Government Organisations (NGOs), the Informal Settlement Network (ISN) and the Community Organisation Resource Centre (CORC).

The NGO's mobilised and assisted the community to contribute 20% towards a saving scheme that would aide with the acquisition of their new structures. The improved structures were built from fire proof material thereby reducing the risk of fires. The NGO's in collaboration with the community embarked on a planning process on the layout of the settlement. CORC funded 80% of the new units and delivered the layout and design. The layout and design included a better road infrastructure that would provide better access roads for emergency vehicles and service delivery vehicles. The City was responsible for bulk services, paved roads, storm water drains, wash-troughs, trolley bins and taps.

The South African Post office provided physical addresses and a postal service at Flamingo Heights. A tree planting project was hosted on Nelson Mandela Day in collaboration with the South African Post Office and the Informal Settlement Management officials where the children of Flamingo Heights were provided the opportunity to plant trees.

The Centre for Early Childhood Development (CECD) provided funding for the establishment of an Early Childhood Development Centre (ECDC). Residents of Flamingo Heights were employed and trained as teachers at the ECDC. Little Paradise aftercare currently services 30 pre-schoolers.

### **4. Findings and observations**

During the walk-about of Flamingo Heights the Committee observed the following:

- 4.1 A security fence that surrounds Flamingo Heights provides security for the community;
- 4.2 Social ills have become a major problem and interventions from the Department of Social Services, the South African Police Service and the City are required to aid the community;
- 4.3 Flamingo Heights does not have an established CPF or neighbourhood watch;
- 4.4 The Little Paradise aftercare facility staff were not being remunerated for their services;
- 4.5 There are currently only two child minders looking after the children at Little Paradise;
- 4.6 Food packs are provided to Little Paradise to feed the children who attend the aftercare;
- 4.7 The savings scheme is still active and funds are utilised to purchase required goods; and
- 4.8 The taps on some of the properties were leaking.

## 5. Recommendations/Actions

The Committee RECOMMENDED that the City of Cape Town engage with various stakeholders to invest capital from their own resources into Social Investment Projects eg. Flamingo Heights to ensure the sustainability and success of the projects.

  

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MS LM MASEKO (MPP)

CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

DATE: 05/11/2015