



MEDIA STATEMENT

08 September 2020

Embargo: Immediate Release

OFFICIAL STANDING POINT WITH REGARD TO TIPINI RESIDENTS

Executive Mayor Councillor Nyaniso Nelani has yesterday, 07 September 2020 led a delegation of municipal officials and MMC for Human Settlements and Disaster Management, Councillor Thobeka Mtirara to visit former Tipini residents who are temporarily residing at the old municipal mechanical workshop. The purpose of the visit was to assess their living conditions in order to provide them with amicable solutions.

The relocation of Tipini residents comes after a feud between Waterfall Park residents and former Tipini residents in May 2012. Fuming Waterfall Park residents called for the eviction of Tipini residents, with the impression that the informal settlement is a haven for criminals. One of the Waterfall Park residents was allegedly killed by criminals believed to be coming from Tipini. The reason behind the attack was perceived that the area was being utilized even by the criminals from surrounding townships as a stronghold since it was not easily accessible especially if you are not residing in the area.

Due to rife crime in Tipini, some shacks were set alight resulting to an elderly woman being injured and three people were allegedly murdered including a police officer. The chaos erupted when residents from Waterfall Township raided the informal settlement, accusing them of hiding criminals. Families that had their shacks burnt down made a plea to the King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality to intervene and emphasized that some of the residents have been living in Tipini for more than 20 years and have no alternative accommodation/ homes.

KSD Municipality responded to their plea by providing them with temporal accommodation at Rotary Hall, Ngangelizwe Mthatha. After some deliberations with them, an agreement was made that they be ferried to their original homes. As a result, those who belonged within KSD Municipal area were transported by the municipality including their goods. After reports from Ngangelizwe residents

around Rotary Hall that criminal activities were escalated due to the people from Tipini, the community of Ngangelizwe urged the municipality to vacate them.

Great strides were made by the Municipality to assist Tipini residents. Several places were approached to assist with temporary accommodation whilst the Municipality was looking for suitable land for permanent residence to build houses for them. To mention but a few, the Red Cross building and vacant RDP houses in the Townships of Ilitha, Maiden Farm and Zimbane were identified for interim accommodation. Meetings were held with beneficiaries of all the identified areas and it became evident that former Tipini residents would not be welcomed in any of the identified areas.

In a meeting held on the 5th June 2012 between the Department of Human Settlements (MEC and officials from the Mthatha regional office) and the Executive Mayor of King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality, it was agreed upon that 48 beneficiaries would be relocated to the old the Municipal Mechanical workshop as a temporal accommodation. Water and sanitation were provided to them, including installation of lights covering the whole area. Sister departments such as Department of Social Development and Home Affairs were approached with the purpose to assist with Identity Documents and rehabilitation of beneficiaries.

The Department of Human Settlements provided 29 temporal structures to the families and the temporal structures were shared amongst the families.

After meetings that were undertaken by the Department of Social Development and King Sabata Dalindyebo Local Municipality, 68 families were willing to go back to their places of birth and they would then need their temporal structures to be dismantled, transported and rebuilt in their respective homes, meanwhile the Department of Human Settlements tried to organize a permanent solution.

During Yesterday's visit, eight committee members representing the former Tipini residents were introduced to the delegation and the Executive Mayor made a commitment to continue checking up on them until there is a solution.

Ends.

Issued By : King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality Mthatha
For Media Enquiries : Sonwabo Mampoza - Chartered Public Relations
&
Communications Practitioner (CPRP)
Contact no : 073 488 1556