



STEVE TSHWETE

LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

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Media Release

Massive development to provide Newtown housing

Steve Tshwete Municipality has set a new benchmark among local municipalities with its bold initiative to eradicate its Newtown informal settlement ... in one major housing development. Provision will also be made for business, industrial, institutional, parks, which makes this a fully fledged township will all the necessary amenities that human beings need.

During the first phase of the project, town planning processes where the township layout and township establishment application, land surveying, environmental impact assessment, engineering services study, geotechnical investigation, legal input and registration of the township will be finalised.

The municipality has budget R1,5 million for the implementation of this phase.

Newtown is a vast area in Mhluzi township which provides temporary accommodation for the more than 5000 residents who registered with the municipality for allocation of RDP houses and are waiting for delivery.

Some of these residents came from the former Jabulani hostel in Thembisa Mhluzi following the government's announcement move to formalize squatter camps last year. The single-sex hostel was designed to accommodate migrant workers during the apartheid era.

In celebratory mood, Executive Mayor Mike Masina announced the development to a gathering of jubilant residents during a mayoral outreach to Newtown in November last year. He assured residents that their persistent requests had been clearly heard by their ward councilors who understood their plight and had presented a very convincing case to council.

The Town Planning department has begun survey work for the development of 1100 serviced stands "behind the mountain" in Newtown, since the stands in the informal settlement are too small for the new houses.

Newtown residents who are registered will move into their houses as they are completed. The evacuated stands in the informal settlement will then be developed and incorporated into the new residential area.

Masina emphasized that residents who are waiting to take delivery of their houses will need to exercise restraint as they see others moving into their new homes, over a period of approximately five years. A task team of ward committee members, councillors and municipal officials will oversee the process and exercise the necessary control.

Residents of Chromeville, who also attended the mayoral outreach, requested that the municipality attend to maintenance of road infrastructure and were given assurances that this would be done.

For more inquiries, please contact Prudence Magutle at 013 249 7053 / 082 338 3821 or email p.magutle@stevetshwetelm.gov.za

Yours faithfully

W.D. Fouché
Municipal Manager