CITY OF CAPE TOWN

STATEMENT BY THE CITY’S EXECUTIVE MAYOR, PATRICIA DE LILLE

Lotus River in Area South the final stop for Accountability Roadshow

Last night, I wrapped up the Accountability Roadshows in Lotus River where we made the final stop on the mass community meetings tour which started last week in each of the four areas of the city.

The Accountability Roadshows were initiated to report back on progress made by the City of Cape Town over the last seven years to residents in Areas South, North, East and Central.

Accountability is one of the core values of the City administration and it is important for public representatives to constantly reach out to residents to inform them of projects and progress coming to their communities.

On Sunday, along with councillors and Mayoral Committee members, we hosted residents from across area North including Mamre, Atlantis, Durbanville, Melkbos, Milnerton, Brooklyn, Maitland, Langa, Kraaifontein, Observatory, Cape Town, Sea Point, Camps Bay and Hout Bay.

Last night we reported back to residents from Area South including Mitchells Plain, Philippi, Lotus River, Grassy Park, Retreat, Lavender Hill, Capricorn Park, Muizenberg, Cape Point, Noordhoek, Constantia, Wynberg, Claremont, Newlands and Rondebosch.

We have achieved a lot over the past seven years and I want to thank all residents for contributing to our effort to build a more inclusive, well-run, opportunity, safe and caring city.

One of the biggest challenges we all tackled together was the drought and I extend my deep gratitude to all Capetonians for saving water.

There is still a lot to be done to ensure that all residents of the City enjoy the fruits of our democracy. I want to encourage residents to remain active citizens and continue to hold the City administration accountable.

I conveyed to residents at the various roadshows that, as the City, we are aware that housing remains one of the biggest challenges for our people. The City has committed to ensuring that qualifying residents are provided with housing opportunities as we have done over the last seven years.

Between 2012 and 2018, nearly 22 000 top structures and over 20 000 serviced sites were provided to the residents of Cape Town. That means more than 42 200 families have benefitted from these housing opportunities delivered by this administration.

In the past financial year, for the first time in its 18-year history as a metro government, we exceeded our housing delivery target by 62%.

The City’s Transport and Urban Development Authority (TDA) exceeded its housing delivery target by 3 100 opportunities for the 2017/18 financial year.
Given the dire need for housing in the City, TDA will spend R2,1 billion on new housing opportunities over the next three financial years, with R590 million being budgeted for 2018/19 alone.

The 2018/19 budget is allocated to 36 housing developments which are either in the planning phase, already under way, or in the process of being finalised.

In Area South, we have upcoming housing projects in Grassy Park, Dido Valley, Brown’s Farm, Strandfontein, Vrygrond, Retreat, Ottery, Pelican Park and Philippi, among others.

For Area North, budget has been allocated for housing projects in Atlantis, Fisantekraal, Scottsdene, Hangberg, Durbanville, Salt River and Langa.

Under my leadership, this caring City has also committed to undoing the wrongs done by the Apartheid government – one way we are doing so is to ensure that residents who were previously denied property ownership can reclaim that right.

The City has ramped up the handover of title deeds and we have issued over 16 000 deeds to beneficiaries since 2011.

In Area South, we handed out over 789 historical title deeds in the 2017/18 financial year while we issued 730 deeds in Area North for the same period.

We have also made good progress in connecting more residents to the electricity grid. In Area South alone, we have ensured that 10 166 families have electricity for the first time. The City has also connected 3 039 families to the grid in Area North.

For the current financial year, we have set aside R113 million to ensure that more families across the city have access to electricity.

In the current budget, we have several exciting projects for Area South including:

- R720 million for the Table Mountain Group aquifer project
- R75 million for the Cape Flats Waste Water Treatment Works refurbishment
- R33 million for the Incremental Development Area and Upgrade of Informal Settlement Project in Sweet Homes, Philippi
- R29,6 million for electrification in various areas
- R19,9 million for the new Pelican Park clinic which is set to open its doors in January
- R18 million for the Retreat Public Transport Interchange

In Masiphumelele, the City is investing approximately R13,8 million in a new minibus-taxi facility for operators and, more importantly, for the nearly 3 300 commuters who will be departing from this interchange to their destinations in Simon’s Town, Fish Hoek, Kommetjie, and Noordhoek.

Masiphumelele is also one of two communities where the City is spending about R27,3 million on the construction of fire stations.

For Area North the current budget includes:

- R9 million for the construction of the Dunoon Library
- R14 million for the new Fisantekraal clinic
- R22 million for the Imizamo Yethu Housing Project (Phase 3)
- R17 million for the upgrade of the N7, M12 and Sandown Road
• R70 million for the extension of the wastewater treatment plants at Wesfleur and Postdam.
• R29 million for Vissershok landfill to convert gas to energy
• R51 million for the Contermanskloof reservoir.

So far, in Imizamo Yethu the City has constructed 14 roads to ease access to the neighbourhood. We have spent R38 million on roads in the area since 2016. All of these projects and many others are for the benefit of those residents who need it most and I encouraged communities to constantly check in with their ward councillors and subcouncil offices about the progress of the projects.

There is still a lot to do to bring greater parity of services and this is why we established the area-based service delivery model to make sure the services of all 10 City departments are deployed in each area across the city.

I am working until my last day in office to build a more inclusive Cape Town that provides opportunities to all residents, that we redress the imbalances of our past and give all Capetonians access to equal opportunities.

In 2011, at my first inauguration as Executive Mayor, I told residents that I was determined to ‘work tirelessly, day and night, to live up to this vote of confidence to ensure that we do justice to the hopes, dreams and aspirations of all the citizens of our great city.’

I said: ‘Now that you have lent us your vote, you must hold us to account.’

As the outgoing Mayor, I am here to account for the progress we have made. I became the Mayor to serve people and not be served.

These roadshows will not be my last engagement with residents as I still have a few more areas to visit with the Mayoral Pop-Up Office.

This initiative, where I take my office to communities, provides residents with a face-to-face platform to raise complaints and get prompt assistance from the City.

Since the start of the Pop-Up initiative in June, my office, working in cooperation with various subcouncils across the metro, has been able to escalate nearly 1 000 individual complaints.

As elected representatives, we are here to serve residents and they must not hesitate to ask questions to councillors and subcouncil officials.

I know this road has not been easy but I want to thank all communities for working with the City and holding us to our word. The progress we have made has not been possible without their support.

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