



An advertisement banner with a dark grey background. The text reads: "Johannesburg, Africa's Most Visited Destination" in orange and white. Below it, in white, it says "Celebrates 10 years As Home to Meetings Africa – the continent's leading business events expo." To the right is a vertical strip with a landscape image and the text "South Africa Inspiring n...". At the bottom, there is a link "Click here for more information" with a right-pointing arrow, followed by social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

**Democratic Alliance Johannesburg Media Statement
Democratic Alliance PR Councillor Percy Koji**

MEDIA RELEASE: Wednesday, 25 February 2015

DA Councillor visits City of Joburg Cape York hijacked dilapidated building

There are a number of buildings in the inner City of Johannesburg that have been hijacked.

In these hijacked buildings the living conditions are unbearable. One of the hijacked buildings which Democratic Alliance PR Councillor Percy Koji went to inspect recently is on 252 Cape York, at corner Jeppe and Nugget Street, in Johannesburg.

Prior to his visit the councillor sought for answers, he went through the City officials to try and get the details of the ownership and the true state of the building, but all efforts proved in vain.

Councillor Koji requested the City officials including Ward Councillor Xaba of the area to meet with him, to get further clarity on the status of the building. When this proved to be fruitless he took action on the matter.

He went to the building and was denied access by security guards who claimed to be working for VMQ Property Services. However, despite his requests being ignored, the Owner of VMQ Property Services was able to give some clarity on the issues he had raised concerns about.

The first thing Cllr Koji noticed when he walked into the building was the inhumane living conditions. "There was no electricity, few toilets to be shared amongst all the residents, people were sleeping in passages on the floor, rodents and cockroaches roamed amidst people, all this was coupled with an unbearable smell," he says.

According to VMQ Properties Manager Vatiswa Mjiba, the building is apparently owned by the Bank of Mozambique but the custodians are the Department of Economic Development.

She says that she has been the facilities manager for five months now for the

property, reporting to Johannesburg Property Company.

The Johannesburg Property Company hired her to clean the building, which her 10 employees do about 3 days a week. She says that the City set aside a budget in appointing her company to help get the building in a more liveable state. She says that the City's reason for this is because the building falls within their jurisdiction.

She speaks of developments currently under way, to name a few: provision of lighting, window frames, elevator doors and other metal material's that were stripped are in the process of being replaced. There are also security guards stationed there to guard against any incidents.

Vatiswa Mjiba says, "We have not gotten to rolling out the social rehabilitation yet. This has been identified and is part of our scope to deliver; we have to engage social workers and health facilities that will assist with a conditions assessment and rehabilitation process.

"The DA will ensure that whatever plans are in the pipeline will be followed through, and that the City will enforce the specific by-laws that are a priority in the areas of health, safety, water, sanitation and the basic needs of our people. The DA makes such issues a priority as they deal with the infringement of basic human rights," states Cllr Koji.

Caption

Pic 1 to Pic 3

This is the view of the hijacked building from the outside.





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