

Democratic Alliance City of Johannesburg Media Statement
Democratic Alliance City of Johannesburg: Ward 38: 39: 40 Councillor Gary Ramaru

MEDIA RELEASE: Wednesday, 21 October 2015

Houses are being hijacked in Soweto

The Democratic Alliance notes with great concern the rising number of cases that have been reported to them concerning houses that are being hijacked in Soweto.

"It seems criminals have found a new way of making quick money in Soweto, it's very unfortunate that this way involves destroying the lives of the most vulnerable citizens," says DA Cllr Gary Ramaru.

At a public meeting recently held by the DA in an attempt to bring social services closer to the residents of Soweto. Housing officials were invited to come give the residents of Soweto an update on various issues. The issues that needed to be addressed were: the 1996/7 waiting list; title deeds problems, and backyard dwellers. Although the officials were a no show the meetings proceeded.

It is alleged that criminals or even family members are targeting child headed families or families headed by elderly people with the intention of stealing their houses and transferring them into their own names.

In one Instance, a Gogo that doesn't want to be named told Councillor Ramaru of how things became difficult for her after her husband's passing. These difficulties were in addition to dealing with the loss of her life partner.

The gogo says that her neighbour's daughter, a child that she raised has stolen her home making claims that she bought it.

"It is very unfortunate that this growing trend is being allowed to continue. We as the DA call on The Executive Mayor, Cllr Parks Tau to immediately establish a task team to look into this growing trend, so that we can put an end to this inhuman act before more residents of Soweto are left homeless," he says.

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