



“CHANGING CITIES, BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES”

**Msunduzi Housing Summit
World Habitat Day
1st October 2012**



World Habitat Day

- The United Nations' Human Settlements Programme, UN-Habitat, has designated the first Monday of October every year as World Habitat Day.
- The aim is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities and the basic right to adequate shelter. The United Nations chose the theme for 2012 as "Changing Cities, Building Opportunities."
- It is in the cities that many hope to realise their dreams of a better life and prosperity. Under this theme, UN-Habitat wants to underscore the need to plan our cities better, in order to manage growth in an efficient and sustainable manner.

From global to local....

- South Africa has the largest fiscal commitment to state subsidised housing in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Over 2.3 million households have benefited from the national housing subsidy scheme since 1994 (Budget speech 6 May 2011).
- A rosy picture? Not for those who have....

....been banished to peripheral townships
where there are no amenities or work opportunities



....waited a lifetime for their turn to be housed

voice to the poor and powerless



Irene Grootboom took the state to the Constitutional Court in 2001 and won in a landmark judgment that secured low-cost housing for the homeless. Photo: Ambrose Peters/Sunday Times

M&G 22/1/10

...been unable to afford to maintain their houses
or secure administrative justice.

R1,3 bln to fix shoddy houses

*Witness
17/11/09*

TOKYO SEXWALE: 'It's money
down the drain'

...been unable to secure the most basic services

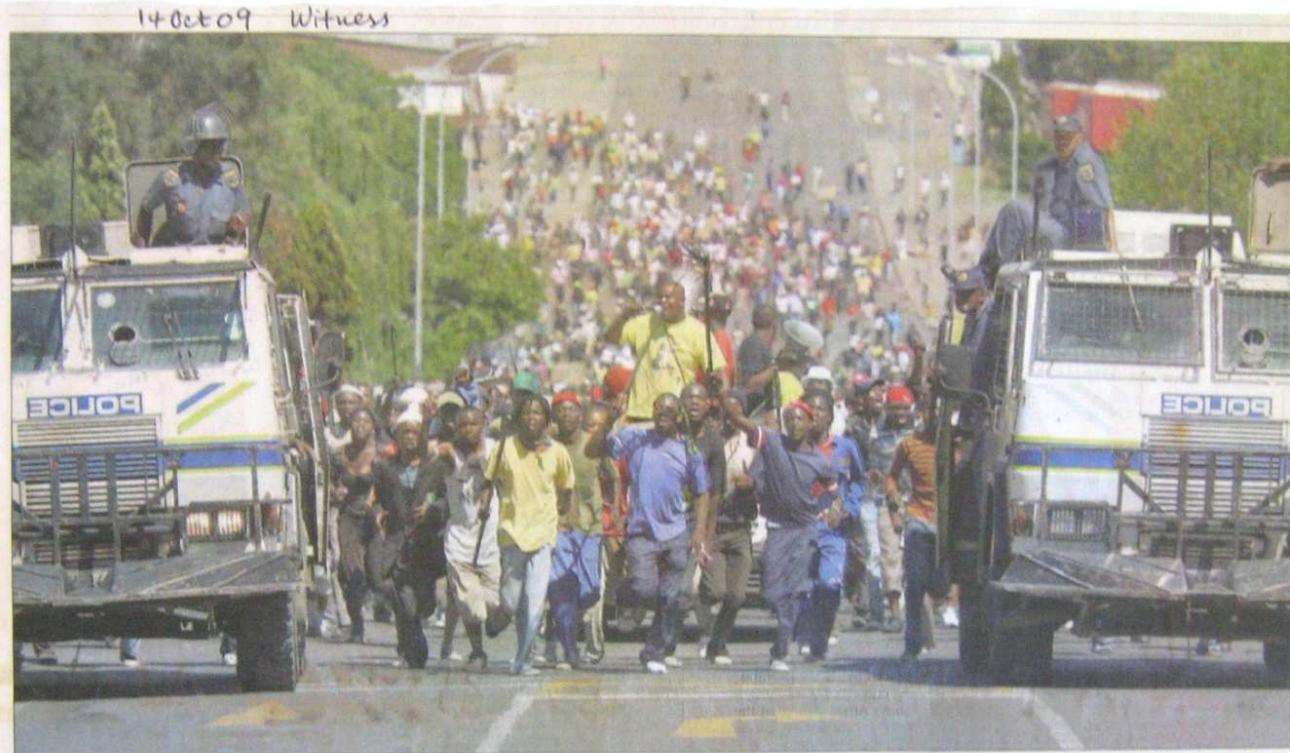


PHOTO: FELIX DLANGAMANDLA

Residents from the Sakhile Township near Standerton in Mpumalanga participate in a protest yesterday. Police say they fired rubber bullets to scatter violent residents protesting their poor living conditions in several eastern South African towns. Residents of Sakhile township in Standerton are up in arms against the council, demanding that councillors be axed for corruption.

Sakhile township violence flares up again over service delivery

STANDERTON — The streets of Sakhile township near Standerton were last night littered with garbage and broken glass after another day of service delivery protests.

Concrete barriers have been moved on to the roads and informal toll booths are staffed by gangs of teenagers demanding money from cars that approach them.

"We need the money to buy petrol so that we can burn

things," said one of the teenagers.

The protests in Standerton entered a fourth day yesterday with residents frustrated by what they say is poor service delivery and a lack of responsiveness from councillors.

A resident said he was stopped

from going to work by angry protesters. He had to pretend to be one of them until they dispersed.

Yesterday, protesters were standing in the main street of the township as early as 4.30 am stopping people on their way to work.

Around 8 am they converged on the Sakhile stadium to get a response to their grievances from the municipality, said the resident.

But no one from the Lekwa Municipality came to speak to them.

— Sapa.

The challenge we face as a nation

- South Africa still has a backlog of 2.7 million houses, which is rising annually.
- Assuming a projected delivery rate of 250,000 houses per year, the annual budgetary implication is R35 billion, which is far beyond the state's current fiscal capacity.

-- Financial & Fiscal Commission, April 2012

- "As a reflection of the increased demand, the number of informal settlements has ballooned to more than 2,700.
- "With the current pace of delivery and the resources at our disposal, and mindful of....the rapid pace of urbanisation, it could take us decades to break the backlog. In real terms, as a country, we have hardly moved."

--- Minister Tokyo Sexwale, Budget Speech NCoP, 6 May 2011

Now the good news

- “....Nevertheless, we can never turn our backs on the poor. It is not their fault nor should poverty be used as a political football.”
--- Minister Tokyo Sexwale, Budget Speech NCoP, 6 May 2011
- In 2010, the Ministry of Human Settlements signed a Delivery Agreement with the Presidency, known as Outcome 8.
- It commits the Department, among other measures, to provide secure tenure and basic services to 400,000 households in informal settlements by March 2014.
- This represents a radical shift in mindset from the era and language of “slums clearance.”
- The Housing Subsidy has been restructured and re-branded, so that it is now possible to provide basic services as a human right while housing delivery is lagging behind the demand for housing.

Why BESG is hosting this event (1)

BESG is addressing the historically poor interface between communities and the developmental state (local and provincial), through its two core programmes:

1: The Deepening Democracy Project.

- Located in the KZN Midlands, it builds community leadership, provides training in local government legislation, structure, and functions, and supports participatory governance programmes at municipal level.
- The project assists communities to engage in IDP and budget processes that are the administrative and financial mechanisms for providing basic services and housing.
- Over the past two years, over 100 CBOs in 7 local municipalities have taken part.

Why BESG is hosting this event (2)

2. Supporting sustainable human settlements in KZN

- We run a training programme in Housing Consumer Education (HCE) for CBOs at all stages of the project planning and delivery cycle.
- We operate a technical support unit to assist communities who wish to engage in issues around the planning and implementation of projects, or who have suffered administrative injustice in the process of development.
- We have also implemented nearly R100m of projects with community and local municipal partners.

This is the first event where our two core programmes have combined forces to address the basic needs of communities for services and housing in a city-wide context.

The summit as an information exchange

- BESEG will give a brief overview of the main fiscal instruments and programmes that have replaced the old one-size-fits-all “housing subsidy.”
- Ward Committee and CBO members who have common issues will meet in clusters to capture them – by Ward – under the following categories:
 - Basic services (water, sanitation, roads)
 - Housing
 - Rectification work
 - Other issues
- Officials will present what projects are planned and in implementation, and respond to the community inputs.
- BESEG will capture community needs that are not currently reflected in the IDP and budgeted and submit these to the Offices of the IDP Manager and Speaker.

After the summit – continuing the good work

There are various spaces for communities to engage in public participation processes:

- **Engage with your Ward Councillor and committee. Schedule 1 of the Municipal Systems Act (Code for Councillors) requires that Ward “Councillors must be accountable to local communities and report back at least quarterly to constituencies on council matters.”**
- **If your Ward Councillor is unresponsive, you have the right to ask for the Speaker’s Office to assist.**
- **You can also interact with officials in the 5 Area Based Management Teams that cover all wards in the city.**
- **If you are not already members, you can join the quarterly Msunduzi CBO cluster meetings that operate under our Deepening Democracy Project.**
- **You can participate in the annual IDP and budget review processes.**

A final word from our Deputy President

- Service delivery in many municipalities is failing because communities and stakeholders are not sufficiently involved, Deputy President **Kgalema Motlanthe** told MPs on (22 March 2011).
- Addressing the National Council of Provinces, he said there were several reasons for integrated development plans (IDPs) – a government tool to foster service delivery – not working properly.
- These included insufficient economic, institutional and human capacity; and an inadequate knowledge of government and budgetary processes.
- "Our findings... have been that there is a lack of meaningful participation by communities and local stakeholders in the IDP process.
- "It is clear that there is a need for collective ownership of the development process and strengthened relations between ward committees and independent civil society formations in the promotion of meaningful engagements between local government and community members."

-- Polity.org.za

Thank you/ Siyabonga!

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