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TO: ALL MEDIA

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PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS CONVENES PUBLIC MEETING IN FINETOWN, WARD 6 CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

The Gauteng Provincial Legislature's Portfolio Committee on Co-Operative Governance, Traditional Affairs and Human Settlements (COGTA & Human Settlements) will be holding a Public Meeting with communities of the Kanana Park Informal Settlements on Sunday, 17th August 2014, as guided by its mandates of oversight on the Gauteng Department of COGTA and Human Settlements; Ensuring public participation and Cooperative governance.

Led by the Chairperson, Honourable Mohatla Tseki, the Portfolio Committee resolved that it is necessary to convene a Public Meeting with the community of Ward 6 (City of Johannesburg) after several meetings were held with residents dissatisfied with service delivery within their communities. These meetings were held during the 3rd Quarter of the 2013/14 FY with the highlighted service delivery issues affecting communities residing in the following areas of Kanana Park within Ward 6: Thulamntwana Kanana Ext 3, 4, 5 & 6; Weiler's Farm (Majazane) Kanana 1, 2 & Proper; Mountainview; and Finetown. This Public Meeting is an effort by the Committee to respond to the community's pleas for intervention on service delivery issues pertaining to Human Settlements and COGTA.

Venue: 2625, Cnr. Fine & Phillip Street, Finetown

Date: Sunday, 17 August 2014

Time: 10h00 am

One of the community's greatest challenges is a Human Settlements related issue of the relocation of residents of the original Informal Settlement of Sweetwaters residing in shacks on a farm, now referred to Extensions 3, 4 and 5 with the promise of new houses through a Presidential project in Kanana Park Ext 6. Also affected is the Thulamntwana project wherein there are *allegations of corruption pertaining to the illegal sale of stands and houses*; and in Weiler's Farm project which was to have been completed by 1999 to provide for more than 2 500 families who were without basic amenities since the settlement was established in 1986 when the community was granted permission to settle there. There are overarching challenges of allegations of corruption in the allocation of houses; *poor quality of houses built, lack of job creation and local economic empowerment*; Orphans dispossessed of their Stands immediately after their parents' death; and dissatisfied Beneficiaries who have been in the Housing Waiting List since 1996.

In relation to Local Governance issues highlighted, these included amongst others, allegations of corruption within the *waste removal service*; and *access to clean water within the Mountain View informal settlement, in Ennerdale*, wherein old Water tanks were brought in from the relocated Thulamntwana instead of promised taps on Stands, with the water supplied not safe for drinking. The community also indicated that a petition was submitted to the City of Johannesburg on 15 March 2013 reporting this lack of service delivery. The following non-housing related challenges were also raised that require referral to the relevant GPL Portfolio Committees for intervention: *Education system issues, community health issues, community safety issues*, as well as *allegations of political conflicts*.

Subsequent to the first engagement with the community in November 2013, the Committee has conducted extensive research; including visits to the area in an effort to validate the issues raised. This resulted in the compilation of a Committee's **Report On Ward 6 – City Of Johannesburg (Region G) Community Issues** detailing all the issues with this community. The key issues highlighted in this report will be presented at the Public Meeting before the residents, estimated at 2000 out of an estimated population size of 6 000 – 10 000 within this ward. *Ideally the invitation is targeted to the residents of Ward 6 although the venue is within Ward 7 which has similar Socio-Economic challenges and demands.*

The Public Meeting will afford the community a platform and relevant audience to raise these challenges and others existent within the area. The Committee will ensure there is specification case by case (where possible) such that relevant officials can take note of the cases for resolve measures. Relevant officials and authority structures have also been invited including *Education, Safety and Health Portfolio Committee Chairpersons, the City of Johannesburg, South African National Civic Organisation (SANCO); and the SA Human Rights Commission.*

Members of the media are invited to attend. No accreditation is required.

Issued by Chairperson of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature's COGTA & Human Settlements Portfolio Committee, Hon. Mohatla Tseki.

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