

DEBATE ON HOUSING BUDGET VOTE

VOTE 15

08 JULY 2009

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Housing is one item in the delivery of services that proves to be a headache for both government and citizens, because a house is never said to be complete.

Tastes vary too. Some prefer palaces while others are home in modest abodes.

The North West Government will have the issue of the flats that have been sold hanging around their necks like an albatross for a foreseeable time to come. There is mystery and uncertainty regarding their disposal.

The public out there are watching what is going to happen. They wonder whether a government asset can be allowed to be passed on to individuals to enrich themselves.

This is the time that the government of the day has to rise to the occasion and show that they mean it when they say they will not countenance corruption.

While it is equally a lesson to occupants that services have to be paid for, the severity of the action is beyond measure and most inhumane as people's property was destroyed in the process while young children were terribly traumatised.

Whoever and whichever government arm that authorised that brutality on people must hang their heads in shame. A time should come when those in authority should reflect on past incidents such as when the High Court of the Western Cape took government to task for having evicted Mama Grootboom.

If we slate farm evictions why should government do it when they are faced with a similar situation?

There is a perceived discrepancy in the way RDP houses are allocated. They vary in sizes, the workmanship in most cases leaves much to be desired and invariably they are located at places far away from amenities. Let us hope that in time to come the philosophy of the Department of Human Settlement will pervade the entire country.

When houses are built for habitation they should take into account access to schools, sites for places of worship, shopping centres, sports fields and roads.

The mushrooming informal settlements are a result of protest from the days of apartheid. The time has come that there be law and order. People should not be allowed to put up any ramshackle anywhere they like.

It is equally important to ensure that while we need to bridge the gap between the former white and black residential areas, consideration has to be given to the type of houses being built for that development. It is so absurd to build RDP houses next to a suburb under the guise that we are transforming society.

While it is accepted that we have wall-to-wall municipalities it boggles the mind in some villages such as Voordonker in the Moses Kotane Municipality where gaping walls that were built some time ago remain roofless. There is every reason for some of us to believe that they were built as an election ploy to attract residents that the ANC municipality is delivering. Now that the election is over the people are left on their own with structures that may harbour criminals and having cost the tax payer a fortune