**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND LAND REFORM TO CONDUCT OVERSIGHT AT DISTRICT SIX IN CAPE TOWN**

**Parliament, Tuesday, 15 March 2022** – The Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development today held a virtual meeting with the District Six Claimants, the City of Cape Town and the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development including the Reference Group representing old order claims to discuss matters relating to the District 6 and the completion of the District 6 housing project and the handing over of the certificates of occupancy by the City of Cape Town.

The Chairperson of the Committee, Inkosi Zwelivelile Mandela, informed the meeting that the blame game between the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and the City of Cape Town does not help the beneficiaries who are waiting to occupy their flats.

The committee heard from the department that there were 2760 claims lodged, 1201 of those claims preferred dwellings as part of the Restitution Settlement option. Thus far 247 claimants were allocated dwellings to date and in the pilot phases of one and two, 139 claimants were allocated.

In phase three there are 108 claimants, however, the dwellings have not been handed over.

The committee heard from Ms Erica Naude of the City of Cape Town, that the buildings have not met the Standard Building Safety and the Land Use Management System regulations and therefore the City provided occupational certificates with a list of safety compliance issues to be addressed before the transfer to beneficiaries can take place. This then indemnified the City of Cape Town.

The committee also heard that the construction of the dwellings was costed at R167 million and that the initial contractor (Fikile Construction) was paid R85 million for 55% of the work completed and could not complete the construction of the dwellings. Thereafter the department appointed the second contractor( Haw and Inglis Civil Engineering) at a cost of R178 million to fix the defects and complete the construction.

The Chairperson of the committee, Inkosi Zwelivelile Mandela, informed the meeting that the committee will undertake an oversight visit to District Six during the week of 29 March to 1 April 2022 and will meet with all the relevant stakeholders.

ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, INKOSI ZWELIVELILE MANDELA.

For media enquiries or interviews with the Chairperson, please contact the committee's Media Officer:
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