## SOUTH AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor 33 Hoofd Street Braampark, Forum 3 Braamfontein

Private Bag X 2700 Houghton ·

Tel.: 011 877 3750 . Fax: 011 403 0668



Ref: GP/1920/0036

03 December 2019

# MR MDUDUZI SHABANGU

Head of Department: City of Ekurhuleni

C/O: Mr Thokozani Maseko Divisional Head: Operations

Per email: Thokozani.Maseko@ekurhuleni.gov.za

### Also copied herein:

Mr Kemi Behari

Divisional Head: Municipal Courts, By-law Enforcement (Prosecutions) and Compliance.

Corporate Legal Services

City of Ekurhuleni

Per mail: Kemi.Behari@ekurhuleni.gov.za

Dear Sirs,

## RE: COMPLAINT LODGED WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

- 1. The above matter and your response to the Complainant's allegations received on 13 August 2019 refers.
- 2. Kindly note that subsequent to receipt of your response to the Complainant's allegations, the South African Human Rights Commission ("the Commission") together with officials from the City of Ekurhuleni (COE) conducted an inspection in loco at Langaville Extension 8 Informal Settlement (Langaville).
- 3. During the inspection in loco the Commission observed the following:

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- 3.1 That there were indeed chemical toilets placed in and around Langaville:
- 3.2 That one toilet was shared by at least 5 (five) families; and
- 3.3 That right next to extension 8 there are houses which have proper sanitation, in that they have flushing toilets.
- 4. During the said inspection in loco the Commission was able to interact with the residents of Langaville where we were advised as follows:
  - 4.1 That the chemical toilets provided by the COE were not adequate as they filled up quickly;
  - 4.2 That Langaville has been in existence for at least 20 (twenty) years;
  - 4.3 That a residential area right next to Langaville has flushing toilets and/or the houses are connected to the sewer and water reticulation system;
  - 4.4 That about 10 years ago the area now referred to as Langaville Extension 8 had been earmarked for the construction of a school by the Department of Education; and
  - 4.5 That the project to build a school on that land appears to have been abandoned.
- 5. From the above, specifically taking into account the period of time that the residents of Langaville have resided in that area, it is apparent that the residents will resist any attempt to relocate them to another area. Consequently, it is the view of the Commission that the COE should proceed to rezone Langaville so that the residents can be provided with proper sanitation and other bulk services.
- Further to the above, the Commission recommends that the COE should in the interim look into providing the residents with more chemical toilets as the COE's current ratio of 1 toilet to 4 families, does not take into account the fact that some families have a lot more members than

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others, as a result their toilets fill up much quicker. Alternative to increasing the number of toilets for those families with a high number of members, the Commission recommends that the COE amends its toilet cleaning schedule and attend to cleaning of the toilets at least three times per week.

- In the circumstance, the Commission kindly requests that the COE advise us on the following:
  - 7.1 Whether the COE has taken a decision to rezone Langaville, if so, whether such decision has been presented to Council. The timeline of when the rezoning will commence and the finalization date.
- 8. Kindly provide us with your response to the above at your earliest convenience, preferably within 7 (seven) days of receipt of this correspondence.
- 5. We trust you find the above to be in order and we await the courtesy of your response herein.

Yours faithfully,

P.P

Buang Jones
Gauteng Provincial Manager
South African Human Rights Commission