

Notes for Mayor Zandile Gumede at Title Deeds Handover Ceremony held at Durban City Hall, 15 March 2018

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Programme Director,

Deputy Mayor Fawzia Peer,

Exco Members and fellow Councillors,

City manager – Mr Sipho Nzuza,

Senior managers and municipal officials,

Amalunga omphakathi,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Sanibonani,

Siyabingelela, kuyintokozo enkulu kimina ukuthi sihlangane ngaloluhlobo kumcimbi wokubuyisela isithunzi somuntu omnyama. Lokhu kusekuncane, lapho esiphokophele khona ukubuyisela umhlaba kubanikazi wabo.

I am so pleased by the approval of title deeds restoration programme. Our city has a backlog of 71 815 units for post 1994 and 11 262 for pre 1994 stock that still has to be transferred to beneficiaries. A target for the current financial year is to finalise 3000 title deeds, we have already issued about 1300 title deeds have been issued to date.

The problem with the late issuing of title deeds is only affecting black people. Their dignity was being disrespected by this problem, and that needs to be restored. Many black people are unable to take out insurance on their property because the banks require a title deed. This also creates further issues when the owner of the houses passes away without receiving their title deed and the siblings fight over the ownership of the house.

It is only the ANC government that is restoring the dignity of a black family by issuing title deeds. Giving our people LAND is our program of action for total restoration of dignity.

As we celebrate the Year of Nelson Mandela, we need to work together to ensure his vision for land reform is realised. As this city we are committed to the implementation of a comprehensive land reform programme that corrects the historical injustice of land dispossession, provides land to the poor in both rural and urban areas, strengthens the property rights of all, increases agricultural production and improves food security.

Since 1994, the democratic government has embarked on a series of interventions to advance land reform, including restitution, redistribution and tenure reform. While more than 3 million hectares of land was restored between 1995 and 2014, the Land Audit Report indicates that whites still own around 72% of the farms owned by individuals, coloureds 15%, Indians 5% and Africans only 4%.

It was also reported that males own 72% and female only 13%. We must therefore work with urgency to significantly and sustainably accelerate the pace of land reform. The expropriation of land without compensation is one of the mechanisms that government will use to do this.

We are saying forward with land expropriation without compensation.

Halala to all the beneficiaries, there will be more beneficiaries in the near future. We are taking the program forward