



human settlements

Department:  
Human Settlements  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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# Human Settlements Today

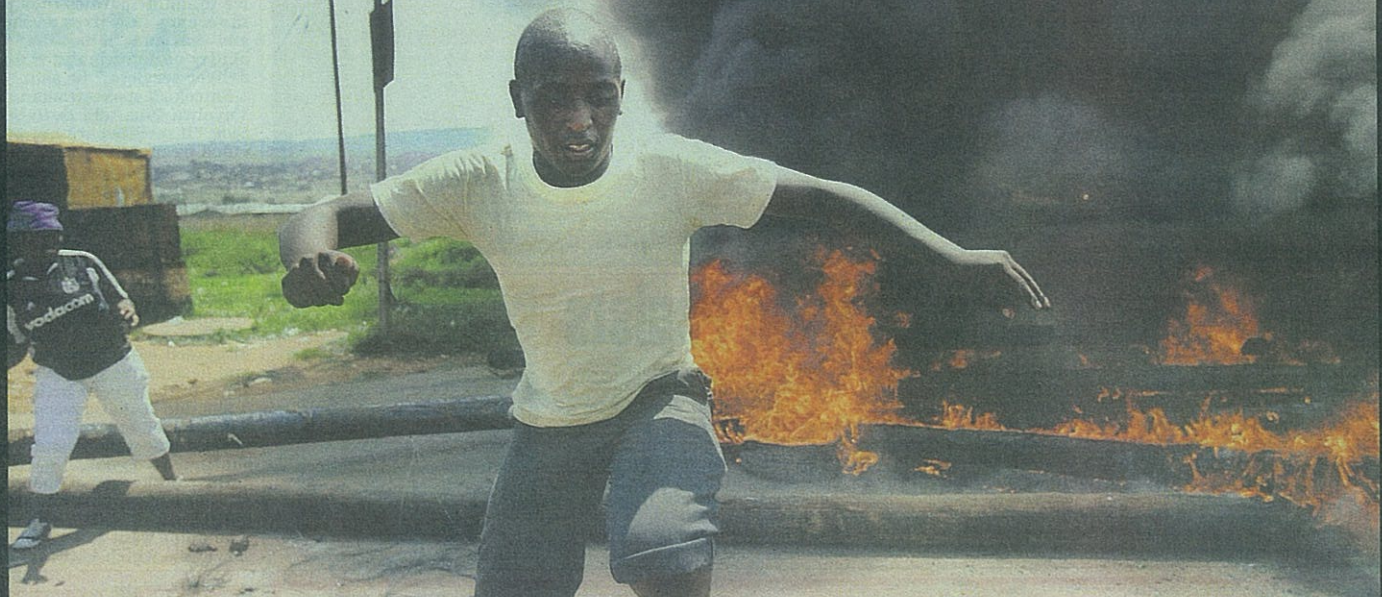
**DAILY NEWS CLIPPINGS**

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Breaking new ground in housing delivery  
*Housing, Security & Comfort*

DAILY SUN, front page  
5 March 2010



# WHAT FUELS THE FLAMES . . .

By SUN REPORTERS

**THE nation is being tormented by scenes like this of fire and rage in the streets.**

*But why? This is supposed to be the People's Government . . .*

**SO THE PEOPLE'S PAPER WENT TO FIND REASONS . . .**

The answers should be the AGENDA for meetings which government leaders now say they're keen to have.

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**CAST YOUR VOTE FOR THIS MONTH'S SUNBABE IN SUNDAY SUN!**

# The reasons for the rage . . .

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

■ Top of the list is housing – or rather the LACK of housing. And even if there ARE houses available, they're very likely to be badly built RDPs – with cracks, and plaster falling off.

People say they do not trust the allocation process of RDPs. They say there's favouritism on every RDP list.

And some say they've been waiting for 10 years or more . . . with no result.

Promises have not been kept.

People's patience is thin today.

The GREAT majority of the angry people on the streets around the nation are those who still live in shacks they made themselves.

■ Incompetent and useless local councillors are the second

great issue. The list of rioters' complaints about their local councillor seems endless.

Some so-called people's representatives are blamed for not even living in the areas they are supposed to serve.

At the heart of this is the ANC's system of "deploying"

councillors – rather than having them directly elected by their wards.

In addition, many of them are accused of not listening to people when they do appear; or of corruption, favouring their friends and family and of operating in secret – when they do operate at all.

At riot after riot the angry cry is the same: "Our council-

lor must GO!"

■ And third comes the seemingly endless crisis of service delivery.

It's been going on for years . . . and people see NO change for the better.

Big mistakes in council bills, lack of clean running water, sewage spilling into the streets, potholes on broken and

muddy roads, STILL no electricity, no rubbish removal . . .

These are some of the horrors that are pushing angry people onto the streets with rocks in their hands.

No matter what president Zuma may say – or any of his ministers – about uplifting society . . . people make it clear:

The CRISIS lies in broken

local government!

Even at the top end of the scale, smart leaders agree.

David Mabuza, the Mpumalanga premier, said: "Councilors in many municipalities are unable to provide leadership and effective oversight in the affairs of the municipalities."

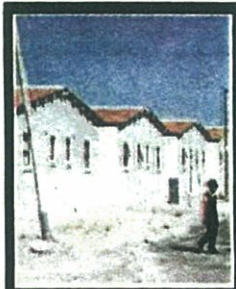
"A number of municipalities have been placed under administration, mainly due to governance failure."

On Wednesday night, Gauteng premier Nomvula Mokonyane was told "*lent' oyenzayo ayi lunganga . . . what you are doing is not right . . .*"

Government leaders have said, again, that they want to talk.

At least now there are no more mysteries about what must be on the agenda . . .

**THE BIG P1 ISSUE!**



FAIR: Council houses

## Bust the housing cheaters

By VOICE REPORTER

**THE CITY** of Cape Town wants you to blow the whistle on corruption in their housing department.

From March 3 to 31, mense living in Tafelsig and Eastridge in Mitchell's Plain, as well as residents of Statice Heights in Kewtown, can report any irregularities in the allocation and acquisition of Council houses by phoning a toll-free number.

### **Irregularity**

The City's Shehaam Sims says callers can remain anonymous but will be asked to provide details, including the full names of all individuals involved; the time period during which the irregularity took place; and how much money was involved.

"Where instances of corruption are found, they will be dealt with and our administrative systems will be strengthened where necessary to further reduce the possibility of any corrupt behaviour," says Sims.

■ To report irregularities, call the City's toll-free hotline on 0800 32 31 30.

# New delivery unit to vet department projects

**SIBONGAKONKE SHOBA**

Staff Writer

THE Gauteng government has established a "delivery unit" to monitor delivery of government services and projects.

The unit, which falls under the planning commission in the premier's office, will ensure that implementation, as promised by departments, takes place.

Speaking at a breakfast meeting to discuss the provincial budget yesterday, Ignatius Jacobs, political head of the planning commission, said part of the unit's work would be to visit communities to see if projects were being implemented.

This week, African National Congress chief whip Mathole Motshekga visited Orange Farm in southern Johannesburg after the community barricaded roads and burnt tyres to protest at poor service delivery. Motshekga found some projects had not been completed and that the contractor concerned had moved on to other projects.

Jacobs said the unit, under his supervision, would verify departmental claims that projects had been completed by conducting site visits and talking to communities.

"That unit will make sure delivery happens.... The other task will be to make sure that the actual beneficiaries do benefit."

He said the unit would not be a bureaucratic "normal" government department, but an action-orientated structure.

"Looking at the current budget, there is a clear need to improve the quantity and quality of outcome delivered to the intended recipient," Jacobs said.

"When departments say we have done 'X', we go and check if that has been done."

Traditionally, he said, there had been a tendency to look only at budget allocation and expenditure — not outcomes. The planning commission had started with its work and the framework was in place.

The commission consists of MECs, former economic development head Sibusiso Xaba, former housing head Benny Monama, former premier's office spokeswoman Annette Griesel and former education spokesman Lebelo Maloka.

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WORRIED: Auditor-general Terence Nombembe.

## Auditor-general takes on Gauteng councils

**SIBONGAKONKE SHOBA**

Staff Writer

MOST Gauteng municipalities have breached financial management regulations because they do not have enough people skilled and experienced in managing public funds.

Auditor-general Terence Nombembe said about 78% of Gauteng municipalities did not follow the Public Finance Management Act as they did not provide quarterly financial reports to councils in the 2008-09 financial year. Some did also not adhere to the supply management policy when awarding tenders.

Speaking to Gauteng mayors and city managers at the provincial legislature yesterday, Nombembe said 22% of reported performance information supplied by municipalities was not reliable.

The national government's assessment of municipalities has shown there is a shortage of people with experience and skills in financial management at municipalities.

This contributes to municipalities failing to comply with government regulations, especially with regard to the public finance act, and in turn leads to municipalities getting poor audits.

The Democratic Alliance (DA) and the Congress of the People (COPE) put the woes of municipal-

ities down to the cadre-deployment policy of the African National Congress (ANC). They have called on municipalities to hire people based on their capabilities and qualifications rather than on party loyalty.

Nombembe expressed concern about financial management and encouraged leaders to be actively involved in finding the real issues, looking into how serious these were, and implementing corrective measures.

Municipalities needed to find ways to "institutionalise" financial accounting disciplines and accelerate migration towards financially unqualified audit outcomes, he said.

In 2008-09, nine of Gauteng's municipalities (75%) received unqualified audits and one (City of Johannesburg) got a clean audit. This was "promising" and a step in the right direction, Nombembe said.

Gauteng Premier Nomvula Mokonyane said "good outcomes" for municipalities should translate into actual service delivery.

The DA said it was shocked that municipalities in Gauteng had squandered R1,3bn during 2008-09. Fred Nel, a DA member of the legislature, said R786m was wasted through electricity losses, R552m through unauthorised expenses and R25m through irregular expenses.

With Sapa

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