

REDEVELOPMENT

Phase 5 of District Six restitution made public

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The redevelopment plan for phase 5 of the restitution process in District Six has been made public.

The District Six restitution process aims to return the land to 954 families dispossessed as a result of the Group Areas Act of 1950.

The families were subsequently forcibly removed from the area between 1966 and 1978.

Over the last five years, the restitution process has been the subject of Constitutional and Land Court judgments in 2018 and 2019, which has prompted the government to expedite matters.

The plan for phase 5 prepared by Rennie Scurr Adendorff for Delta BEC on behalf of the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development reveals that 184 homes will be built on land 4km from Cape Town's central business district.

The site earmarked for phase 5 is



PHASE 5 of the District Six development will see 184 houses built.

bounded between Constitution Street to the north and Justice Walk to the south.

The phase will see 184 houses built as part of the current restitution project that encompasses two other phases. Phase 4 in Hanover Street was concluded, and phase 6 is still under way. Rennie Scurr Adendorff is managing the heritage processes on the proposed redevelopment of several lands in District Six, comprising Phases

4, 5 and 6.

The District Six Working Committee (D6WC) has called on authorities to fast-track the development, despite a court order.

After several delays in the restitution process, the committee advocated for the claimants' cause and took the Department of Land Reform to the Land Claims Court in 2019.

According to Zahrah Nordien, co-chairperson of D6WC, there are

still late audit claimants who need to return.

"Former deputy president David Mabuza once said that they would be completed by 2024 and then the late audit claimants will be seen to.

"We are now in 2024, so I can't see if they really will be completed by 2025," she said.

Phase 1 and 2 managed by the District Six Beneficiary Trust has taken place over the last five years.

Phase 3 was then initiated and run by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform to build 46 terraced houses and 82 apartments.

Delta BEC was appointed as the principal consultant and project manager for phase 3 as well.

Meanwhile, phase 5 is to be developed under two or three-storey dwellings that will respect the historic street grid as far as possible.

Houses will comprise one of five unit types, with row houses predominating, and larger units occupying corner locations.



PREMIER Alan Winde visiting Khayelitsha District Hospital.

HEALTHCARE

Winde praises Khayelitsha District Hospital staff

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PREMIER Alan Winde praised the staff of Khayelitsha District Hospital (KDH) for hard work over the festive season during an impromptu visit yesterday.

The visit was part of his regular community outreach and oversight functions to see how healthcare was delivered to the residents.

"We at the Western Cape Government (WCG) cannot express our gratitude enough. From the nurses and doctors to the administrative and cleaning staff, you all ensure this facility is run professionally and efficiently. Despite various challenges, KDH can be proud that you are all providing the best possible service for people accessing healthcare here. No patient will be refused emergency and basic medical care and treatment," said the premier while on a tour of the paediatric unit.

Staff nurse Nolubabalo Sixishi told Winde that they needed more staff and ward capacity.

Winde said: "This is severely compounded by the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness facing in-year budget cuts to the tune of R121 987 million due to the centrally negotiated public wage deal, which provinces have been forced to fund," he said.

He said the pressure on the hospital was not only determined by the number of people who depended on it, but also by the healthcare needs of the specific population.

"Khayelitsha faces a quadruple burden of disease, violence, trauma and injury," said Winde.

Winde praised the staff who are working hard despite the hospital having its hands full with medical and trauma cases involving blunt assaults, accidental injuries, burn injuries and road traffic injuries.

"Exacerbating the situation is its inability to quickly fill critical positions due to the significant constraints on the budget, backlogged surgeries, and staff safety concerns resulting in shift cancellations."

In the hospital's Emergency Centre (EC), Dr Crispin Kibamba told Winde that he and his team treat up to 3 500 patients each month, 25% of these are trauma-related admissions. Over the last three weekends in January, nearly 700 patients were presented in the hospital's EC, making it among the busiest in the Western Cape.

KDH's psychiatric unit, which is meant to accommodate 30 patients, is also feeling the pressure of having to treat around 80 patients at any given time. A doctor remarked: "We have not fallen apart because we always help each other."

HOTSPOTS

City records increase in cable theft

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The City of Cape Town has recovered 53km of stolen cable over a period of six months. During this time, the City also recorded an increase in arrests and complaints about metal theft.

The stolen infrastructure was recovered during the first six months of the current financial year, starting in July and ending in December.

City officials said they have conducted 404 autonomous operations, 1 260 scrapyards inspections, 1 777 hot-spot patrols, and responded to 277 complaints from the public.

Their efforts resulted in 83 arrests, a 34% increase compared to the same period the year before, and the recovery of 120 551kg of metal and 5 374 388m of stolen cable.

Staff also impounded eight vehicles and issued 1 557 fines for various by-law transgressions.

JP Smith, mayco member for safety and security, said cable and metal theft's impact on services, the economy, and the repair and maintenance budgets of departments that bear the brunt of the scourge is well documented.

"The load on our metal theft unit, and enforcement services on the whole, is not getting any lighter. However, the unit continues to deliver good results in spite of the challenges, and their efforts have to be applauded."

Smith said: "The strategies of metal thieves are constantly changing, with new trends every few months. These require counter strategies and a unit nimble enough to change direction when needed."

"While it would be unwise to reveal our playbook, we are using our integrated policing incident system to help map hotspots and we are always on the hunt for new tech solutions."

Among the metal theft unit's achievements from July-December 2023 were the four-year jail sentence of a suspect in Parow and two suspects found in a trench near the Kromboom Road turnoff apprehended for damaging or destroying essential infrastructure.



AWS SA chairperson Pam Hart with Riley Valentine and AWS SA CEO Dr John McMullen. | JACKIE WERNBERG

DONORS

Paw-some heroes honoured

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THE Animal Welfare Society SA hosted an intimate ceremony to thank five of its loyal donors and partners who play a special role in advocating for animals and sustaining the organisation.

AWS SA in Philippi has been a pillar for the community through its regular projects and helping those less fortunate with primary healthcare for their beloved fur babies.

Among the five recipients was Pamela Isdell, a patron and animal welfare warrior who can claim credit for a number of operational victories since she assumed office in 2016.

AWS SA spokesperson Allan Perrins said: "Thanks to Pamela's magnanimity and genius we have a dedicated pet sterilisation clinic, a unique pet vaccination walk-through clinic, an education and outreach vehicle, a state-of-the-art alternate power supply, limitless potable quality borehole water, intruder proof boundary walls and

brand new animal handling equipment, to mention just a few of the projects she has selflessly funded."

Perrins also honoured mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis, in his absence, for donating R500 000 from his Mayoral Fund in July 2022, enabling AWS SA to sterilise and vaccinate 1 000 pets.

Brigitte Reeve-Taylor, founder of Dancers Love Dogs, was next for sponsoring the sterilisation of thousands of pets on the Cape Flats, raising over R5 million since she first performed in the name of dogs.

Cindy Kooi, a volunteer graphic designer responsible for the layout of annual reports, sought-after Pawsome Stories booklets and world-class social media adverts followed.

Riley Valentine, 12, was honoured for sacrificing birthday presents in favour of gifts to his project, Cause-for-Paws; a pet food drive aimed at benefiting the AWS SA animals.

Perrins said: "Our youngest animal welfare ambassador, Riley, for his devotion and selfless decision to forego

birthday presents in favour of his family and friends donating pet food and spoils to his campaign aptly called Cause-for-Paws. May his compassion for animals serve as an inspiration to others who have yet to experience the joy of helping those less fortunate."

Riley, who previously suffered with epilepsy, said dog therapy healed him and he has a dream of becoming a veterinarian.

He told the Cape Argus: "I want this award to be an inspiration to other children to get involved in AWS SA and become activists for the rights of animals."

Perrins also paid tribute to the fallen heroes who generously remembered AWS SA in their wills.

He told recipients: "We know you have a lot of choices when it comes to donating and we are so grateful that you chose to donate to our cause. We simply couldn't do what we do without amazing people like you. Many people say they want to help; fewer actually step up to do it."