

**Mr Rali Mampeule and SAHIF conferred with the Prestigious Black Business Quarterly Community Builder of the Year Award.**

**27 March 2023**

**For immediate release:**

Mr Rali Mampeule, Founder and Chairman of The South African Housing and Infrastructure Fund (“SAHIF”), has been conferred with the prestigious Community Builder of the Year Award for 2023 at the Black Business Quarterly awards. The award recognises an entrepreneur who, via their business, has demonstrated a commitment to community development through innovation, creativity, integrity, proven record of achievement, involvement, leadership, perseverance, and endurance.

Heeding South African President Cyril Ramphosa’s call for greater private sector support in the fight against Covid-19, Mr Rali Mampeule swiftly rolled up his sleeves. Through his land fund, SAHIF, he financed, developed, constructed and handed over Temporary Residential Units to accommodate approximately three hundred (300) tent dwelling residents of an informal settlement during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Temporary Residential Units were manufactured from innovative sustainable materials and erected using alternative construction technology to accelerate the delivery of dignified homes for the vulnerable community.

This Community Project typified an entrepreneur’s application of innovative technology, in a Public-Private-Partnership ecosystem, to address a perennial national challenge of acute affordable housing for a displaced community in the midst of a nationwide economic lockdown due to the Covid-19 global pandemic.

The TRUs were quick and easy to assemble with minimal material wastage and minimal disturbance to the site. The initiative has created better living conditions for the beneficiaries with more space, increased privacy and improved safety for the community. The durability of TRUs protects the beneficiaries against changing weather patterns that brings heat, cold, wind and heavy rains. The thermal properties of the rock-hard material used for the walls allows the units to be cool during summer and warm in the winter, limiting the beneficiaries’ exposure to seasonal fluctuations in temperatures.

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“However, notwithstanding our application of sustainable materials and technologically construction innovative methods it is the collaborative and inclusive approach that we adopted that ensured the project’s success. From the onset, we sought to address the community’s human settlement challenges while simultaneously ensuring that SAHIF involved all members of the community in the planning, development and construction of their new homes to engender ownership” Mr Mampeule said.

This BBQ Community Builder of Year Award serves as a further affirmation of Mr Rali Mampeule’s innovation led and collaboration centric approach to business through SAHIF and philanthropy through the Mampeule Foundation. The Mampeule Foundation, has to date, donated in excess of R20-Million in community outreach, education, health and research and development initiatives including :

- The United Nations aligned Global Surgery Foundation launched at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2020 and is governed by a distinguished board that includes Dr. Mlambo-Ngcuka the former UN Under-Secretary-General (USG) and Executive Director (ED) of UN Women and the Former Deputy-President of South Africa;
- The University of Johannesburg’s Sustainable Materials and Construction Technologies research unit with whom the Mampeule Foundation, in partnership with Department of Science and Innovation, recently completed and launched the first 3D concrete printed house in South Africa;
- The Mampeule Foundation Bursary Program which has assisted deserving students with funding for their tertiary level degrees and diplomas of choice since 2016 and recently the celebrated a total of ninety (90) graduates.

“We welcome the recognition that the award confers on our work but more importantly we are glad that the Community Project achieved its objective and went further to improve living conditions for a community of approximately 300 people and contributed positively to their health and well-being.” Mr Rali Mampeule.

The end.

For more information, please visit [www.sahiffund.co.za](http://www.sahiffund.co.za)

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