
SAHIF TO WORK WITH RABIE RIDGE COMMUNITY TOWARDS DELIVERY OF SERVICED LAND

Johannesburg, 13 April 2021: The South African Housing and Infrastructure Fund - SAHIF - is consulting Rabie Ridge residents to allow the company time to service the recently acquired land.

Less than two months ago SAHIF, as the majority shareholder of Ninfu Allandale Dev Pty Ltd acquired a stake through a special purpose vehicle called Leading Land Pty Ltd, after identifying the land that was standing vacant for years, and illegal activities were taking place there. SAHIF's objective is to stop these illegal activities to facilitate the opportunity for the commencement of infrastructure services to be installed into the land allowing for future housing to be developed.

"Our aim is to work with the community, and once town planning processes are approved by the city of Johannesburg we can begin with the development. We bought the shareholding because we understand the frustration of the residents who want to build their own homes, and we are now in the process of ensuring that it is serviced and passed on as soon as possible to any resident, developer, NGO's, private & listed companies and/or in some instances to government to further build housing for the residents" says SAHIF CEO Rali Mampeule.

SAHIF believes in and supports government's policy of rapid land release that will enable residents to build their own homes, and we believe that those stands must have basic services to ensure that South Africans live in dignity.

SAPS RESPONSE AND COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES: While the land owners deployed private security and contractors, SAHIF recognizes and thanks the SAPS that ensured the safety of other residents and passers-by outside the property while the protests were underway.

The company is also grateful for the statements issued by both local and provincial authorities to ease tensions. It is regrettable that arms and live ammunition were found on some of the people that masqueraded as protestors and hijacked a legitimate call for service delivery.

"The process of installing services can take time which can be anything from one and half to two years, but with collaboration from the City of Johannesburg and the Gauteng province we believe the process can be shorter." Says Mampeule

THE WAY FORWARD - SAHIF TO CATALYSE DELIVERY OF AFFORDABLE LAND AND HOUSING: SAHIF is very aware of the need of ordinary South Africans for both land and housing. The company's core business is to acquire vacant and unused land near the centres of towns and cities for conversion into zoned and serviced stands. The company wants to enhance the speedy delivery of serviced stands to middle and lower income earning households so that they can build their own homes close to places of work, education, healthcare, public transport and other amenities. To date SAHIF has serviced more than 7,000 sites around the country.

The events of the past days have made it even more urgent for SAHIF to spearhead the much needed dialogue between the company as land owners, government and citizens who desperately need land and housing. For SAHIF this protest was not an inconvenience. It is an eye opener not just for the company, but for the industry as a whole.

SAHIF hopes that the lessons learnt in conversations with the people of Rabie Ridge, and the lessons that will be learnt on this journey will be shared with the industry and policy makers to speed up the delivery of affordable land and housing in South Africa.

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