

Memorandum

The Schubart Park residents were evicted during September 2011. It has been 14 years since we were evicted. This is a long time ago. We are now subjected to court processes that will ultimately result in the eviction of our residents from the alternative accommodation that was provided.

Let us remind the City that the alternative accommodation was for temporary use while Schubart Park was to be renovated. Tshwane launched court proceedings and the aim is to nullify the constitutional order of 2014, and we regret that. The Tshwane municipality continues to try and displace the poor, and that is reflected.

The legal framework, as shaped over time by Constitutional Court rulings, requires the municipality to engage meaningfully with the community regarding how we are restored back to Schubart Park. To date, there has been no activity indicating that refurbishment will take place this year.

A process was agreed upon — the long-term subcommittee — but this was later discontinued. We say: Nothing for us without us. We have requested several meetings, to no avail.

We will resist any attempts to forcefully remove our residents through the courts. Within the community, our dignity and humanity are consistently disregarded by the City.

Residents currently living at Parkview face countless electricity cut-offs. The landlord is not paid by the City, yet the City expects the landlord to cover electricity costs. How can the landlord be expected to pay when they themselves are not paid by the City? This is a direct assault on our dignity and our right to electricity. Our humanity is vandalized by the City day after day, year after year.

We therefore demand the following:

1. Renovate Schubart Park and restore everyone who was evicted.
2. Reinstate the long-term subcommittee to address issues of long-term and permanent accommodation.
3. Stop court proceedings that would result in the eviction of residents.
4. Stop your tactics of driving poor people out of the economic exclusion, whereby poor people are driven out of the City's economic activities through evictions.
5. Stop electricity cut-offs and harassment of residents.,
6. Activate the indigent program so that those who cannot afford electricity are exempted.
7. A meeting with the Mayor must be convened to chart a proper way forward.
8. Stop spreading lies about us in the media, where we are not given the right to reply.
9. End discriminatory practices by dracculan lords.

We further emphasize that people were made poor by colonialism and capitalism, and are kept poor by neocolonialism, capitalism, and predators who hijacked the struggle of Black people. In this context, the commercial value of accommodation is placed above its social value — to the detriment of the community.

Mr Mashao signature:

The receiver signature: