



19 May 2016

## **Object to the sale of Tafelberg: your chance to help reverse apartheid planning in Cape Town**

After pressure from Reclaim the City, Western Cape Premier Helen Zille agreed to temporarily stop the sale of the Tafelberg site in Sea Point. This victory is a step towards bringing black and coloured working class people back into the city. But, Premier Zille's government still wants to sell the property. Today, Provincial Government published a [notice](#) of its intention to dispose of Tafelberg. With that, they have opened a 21 day period for objection to the sale of Tafelberg. Ordinary Cape Town residents, like yourself, can help prevent the sale from happening. Please join Reclaim the City's supporters by personally objecting today!

### **Why you should do it**

Two decades after apartheid ended, most of Cape Town's working class people are still excluded from the areas they need to be for work, education and a dignified and safe environment. Many others are being evicted and forcibly removed from places like Sea Point, the CBD and surrounds.

Reclaim the City demands that the state uses public land in the city, such as Tafelberg, to develop affordable housing. It is the state's obligation to reverse spatial apartheid in Cape Town, which was designed to reserve the inner city, and areas such as Sea Point, for wealthy, white residents. Since Apartheid ended in 1994, no government subsidized affordable housing has been built in the inner-city or immediately surrounding suburbs.

Premier Zille still has not agreed to use the site for affordable housing. On 13 May her government, the Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works, issued a new notice which states its intention to sell Tafelberg, for R135 million, to a private entity. The Province has opened this proposal to comments from the public.

Reclaim the City will support ordinary Cape Town residents to object to the sale. We will invite Premier Zille to accept these objections personally and publicly, on 9 June 2016 - the final day of the objection period.

### **How you should do it**

If you want to support this campaign, please object to the sale. Take the following steps to do so:

- You need to write a short objection, which includes your name, surname, contact number and/or email address. Why do you object to the sale of

Tafelberg to a private buyer? What should be done with the site instead? Why do you believe the site should instead be used for affordable housing? Think about the type of city you would like to live in, what you expect from your government and what you perceive to be the best use of prime parcels of public land.

- Your submission can be hand written or typed electronically. Sign your submission, if possible.
- Address your submission as follows “Dear Premier Helen Zille”.
- Reclaim the City will submit your objection to Premier Zille and the Department of Public Works on your behalf. To get it to us - email it to [rtcsupport@nu.org.za](mailto:rtcsupport@nu.org.za); drop-off or mail it to office 302; 47 Strand Street; Cape Town; 8001, or hand it over to one of our volunteers for safe-keeping and delivery.
- If you cannot make it to our offices, we may be able to arrange a pick-up for you. Please call Daneel Knoetze at 0735358401.
- Save the date, 9 June 2016, to join other Reclaim the City supporters in publicly handing their objections to Helen Zille.

### **Background to Reclaim the City’s campaign to #StopTheSale of Tafelberg**

The Tafelberg Remedial School is a property of 1.7 hectares - roughly the size of two rugby fields - at 355 Main Road, Sea Point. It belongs to the Western Cape Provincial Government. The land and buildings are currently empty and underutilised.

In late 2015, the Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works, sold Tafelberg to a private entity. Province declared the site “surplus” to government needs, in spite of a request from Western Cape Department of Human Settlements that it be reserved for affordable housing, and a government supported feasibility study which concluded that the site was suitable for a social housing development of up to 341 affordable residential units.

On 11 April 2016 lawyers from the Ndifuna Ukwazi Law Centre, acting for Reclaim the City supporters, launched a case to interdict the transfer of Tafelberg. We prepared to argue that the decision to sell the property was unreasonable, in light of Cape Town’s huge housing backlog, the city’s crisis of segregation inherited from apartheid and the rising unaffordability of accommodation near the city centre. We also noted that Provincial Government failed to comply with procedural requirements, including its legal obligation to advertise its notice of disposal in an isiXhosa newspaper – depriving many black, working class people of the opportunity to make comments on the proposed sale.

On 5 May 2016, Reclaim the City’s lawyers accepted an offer from Premier Helen Zille, the Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works and the Phyllis

Jowell School. In effect, Province has admitted that it failed to comply with legal requirements in the sale of state land

The settlement, made an order of court, states that the Province must rewind the clock back to a moment in time before the sale of Tafelberg to PJS, and reopens the 21 day period for public comment and objection. This time round, the Provincial Cabinet, and indeed Premier Helen Zille herself, will review the objections and make a final decision as to whether to go ahead or to cancel the proposed sale. This process is a major victory for the applicants and supporters of Reclaim the City. Poor and working class people now have an opportunity to participate and demand that affordable housing be built on Tafelberg. Province itself has said that affordable housing on the site is feasible.

Today, the Province has issued a new notice of the proposed disposal of Tafelberg (in isiXhosa as well, this time) and has called for submissions from the public. The 21 day commentary period, for representations and objections to be lodged, closes on 9 June 2016.

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