

RECLAIM THE CITY

**LAND FOR
PEOPLE
NOT FOR PROFIT!**

17 July 2016

Reclaim the City press statement: Sea Point domestic workers outraged by Gary Fishers' involvement in Tafelberg sale

We are working class residents of Cape Town and Sea Point. We are also members of Reclaim the City and supporters of the campaign to #StopTheSale of the Tafelberg site.

Tafelberg is important because it is one of the few big pieces of government land left in Sea Point and we know that the private sector will never provide decent affordable housing for us. This land was also promised to us many years ago by politicians.

We are therefore angered and disappointed by revelations [uncovered by amaBhungane Centre for Investigative Journalism and published today in City Press] regarding former Head of Department at the Gary Fisher's involvement in the disposal of the Tafelberg site to a private entity. We have learned that Fisher's company, Capitalgro, purchased two properties in the vicinity of the Tafelberg site, while he was working as a public official to oversee the disposal of the site to the private sector.

These revelations help to explain why things haven't gotten better for us, because it exposes the type of leadership that is in charge of looking after government land. Fisher has abused his position of power to look after his own interests. The interests of the people, especially working class people, have been ignored. It seems we have left the wolf to look after the lambs.

For more than two decades, we have struggled for our rights to be part of the Sea Point community. Today we are still fighting for affordable and decent accommodation. In that time our living conditions have not changed and very little progress has been made.

We do not want to live in Sea Point for free, but want accommodation that is within our means as working class people. We are good enough to look after the children and houses of Sea Point but not good enough to have our own places. Even the storerooms we stay in are not our own and people are being evicted on a daily basis. People must understand that Sea Point cannot function without the working class.

We are sick of broken promises and hope this expose sends a clear message to residents of the Western Cape that well located affordable housing is being sabotaged by vested interests.

It saddens us to think that while we thought government was on our sides they have actually been making things worse for people like me.

For comment

Elizabeth Gqoboka (RTC spokesperson: Sea Point chapter) - 078 2729 7001
Thandeka Beauty Sisusa (RTC spokesperson) - 072 5937 713
Thozama Angela Adonisi (RTC supporter) - 072 1189 539