



21 July 2016

## **Reclaim the City Press Statement: Premier Helen Zille must suspend special adviser Gary Fisher and #StopTheSale of Tafelberg**

Domestic workers from Reclaim the City's Sea Point chapter gather at the Equinox building, in Sea Point, today to demand that Premier Helen Zille suspends Gary Fisher, her special adviser, until his conflict of interest in the sale of the Tafelberg site is properly investigated. Reclaim the City also demands that the Premier #StopTheSale of Tafelberg and that the site be reserved for affordable housing.

Where: The Equinox Building, 154 Main Road, Sea Point (opposite Tafelberg site)

When: 2:00pm, 21 July 2016

Gary Fisher served as Head of Public Works within the Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works (DTPW) from 2011 to March 2014. He oversaw the drafting of the Expression of Interest document, which paved the way for the provincially owned Tafelberg site to be sold on the open market to the highest bidder. An exposé by the amaBhungane Centre for Investigative Journalism, published in City Press (pg 2, 17 July 2016), revealed that CapitalGro, a company headed by Gary Fisher, purchased R190 million in property within the vicinity of the Tafelberg site in Sea Point in the months prior and subsequent to this EOI being published. These purchases included the Equinox building. Further revelations published in the Cape Argus (pg 4, 19 July 2016) proved that in March 2012, Fisher actively discouraged social housing institution Communicare from pursuing a bid to develop affordable housing on the Tafelberg site.

"Somebody like him [Fisher] has more knowledge than the workers. He knew that if he allowed workers, the Sea Point people, to get Tafelberg for affordable housing that the value of his property around there... that he won't benefit the way that he had planned it. I think that he already planned this way in advance," said Elizabeth Gqoboka, the RTC spokesperson in Sea Point.

Reclaim the City's Sea Point chapter make the following demands from Premier Helen Zille:

1. Suspend Gary Fisher and conduct an investigation into his apparent conflict of interests as property investor and the public official who steered the Tafelberg disposal towards a sale to the private sector.
2. Release all declarations of interests made by Gary Fisher, during his tenure at the Western Cape Department of Public Works and as adviser to the Premier.
3. #StopTheSale of Tafelberg.
4. Reserve the Tafelberg site for affordable housing development.

Premier Helen Zille's decision on the sale of Tafelberg is due 31 July 2016.

*For comment:*

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