

RECLAIM THE CITY

**LAND FOR
PEOPLE
NOT FOR PROFIT!**

24 July 2016

Reclaim the City press statement: Public Works MEC Donald Grant lied to Provincial Parliament and the public about where the Tafelberg sale proceeds would be spent

Note to editors: This press statement should be read in conjunction with the [Ndifuna Ukwazi press statement](#) issued this morning.

Reclaim the City's members are disappointed by the latest revelations related to Provincial Government's management of the Tafelberg sale. An [article](#) by GroundUp, republished on page 10 of the City Press today, reveals that the Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works MEC Donald Grant lied about where the proceeds for the Tafelberg sale would go. In [response](#) to a parliamentary question in March 2016, Grant said that the proceeds from the sale would enable province to cross-subsidise projects for the poor. Leaks by Ndifuna Ukwazi, a support organisation to Reclaim the City, now prove that Province had earmarked the proceeds from the sale for the development of an office mega-project in Dorp Street by October 2015. That Grant could stand up in Provincial Parliament and lie to his fellow members and the people of the Western Cape is a disgrace.

Province had previously said that the proceeds would be spent on infrastructure in poor communities. Apart from the fact that there are also poor people in Sea Point who needed the site for housing, we must conclude that Province lied to us about why it sold Tafelberg. As with many times during the last few months, it has been shown that Province is running away from the truth. They were playing with people's minds. They were covering up.

We find it unacceptable that Province can sell public land, land that belongs to the people of the Western Cape, with the intention of using the money to build a fancy new office building. What this means is that many poor families have been denied the opportunity to live in decent affordable housing in the city, because Province wanted to use the Tafelberg site as a way to make quick money to balance its own books.

Province knew the need of poor people in Sea Point and in Cape Town for affordable housing in the city, and yet it chose to sell the Tafelberg site. This now shows that Province made no effort to hear our needs, because they wanted Tafelberg to make money for a bad investment (the Dorp Street offices) that will bring no real benefit to the poor people of Sea Point and the Western Cape.

It is a shame for the Province, who are supposed to be the ones uplifting poor people, to be acting only in its own interest. We cannot lose Tafelberg for this or for any other reason. We need the land for affordable housing for poor and working class people in Sea Point.

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

1. A plan for affordable housing on inner-city public land.
2. #StopTheSale of Tafelberg.
3. Investigate MEC Donald Grant's lies.
4. Suspend Gary Fisher pending an investigation into his apparent conflict of interests in the Tafelberg sale and release all his declarations of interests.

For comment:

Elizabeth Gqoboka (RTC spokesperson, Sea Point) – 082 729 7001

Thozama Adonisi (RTC member, Sea Point) – 072 118 9539

Shiela Madikane (RTC chairperson, Sea Point) – 073 821 8646